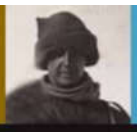
Learning from a killer flu



Seeking Scott of the Antarctic

Fleeing Hungary 50 years ago

The Beaver

CANADA'S HISTORY MAGAZINE

October | November 2006

THE WAR THAT MADE CANADA

The Seven Years' War and the fate of a nation.

TheBeaver.ca

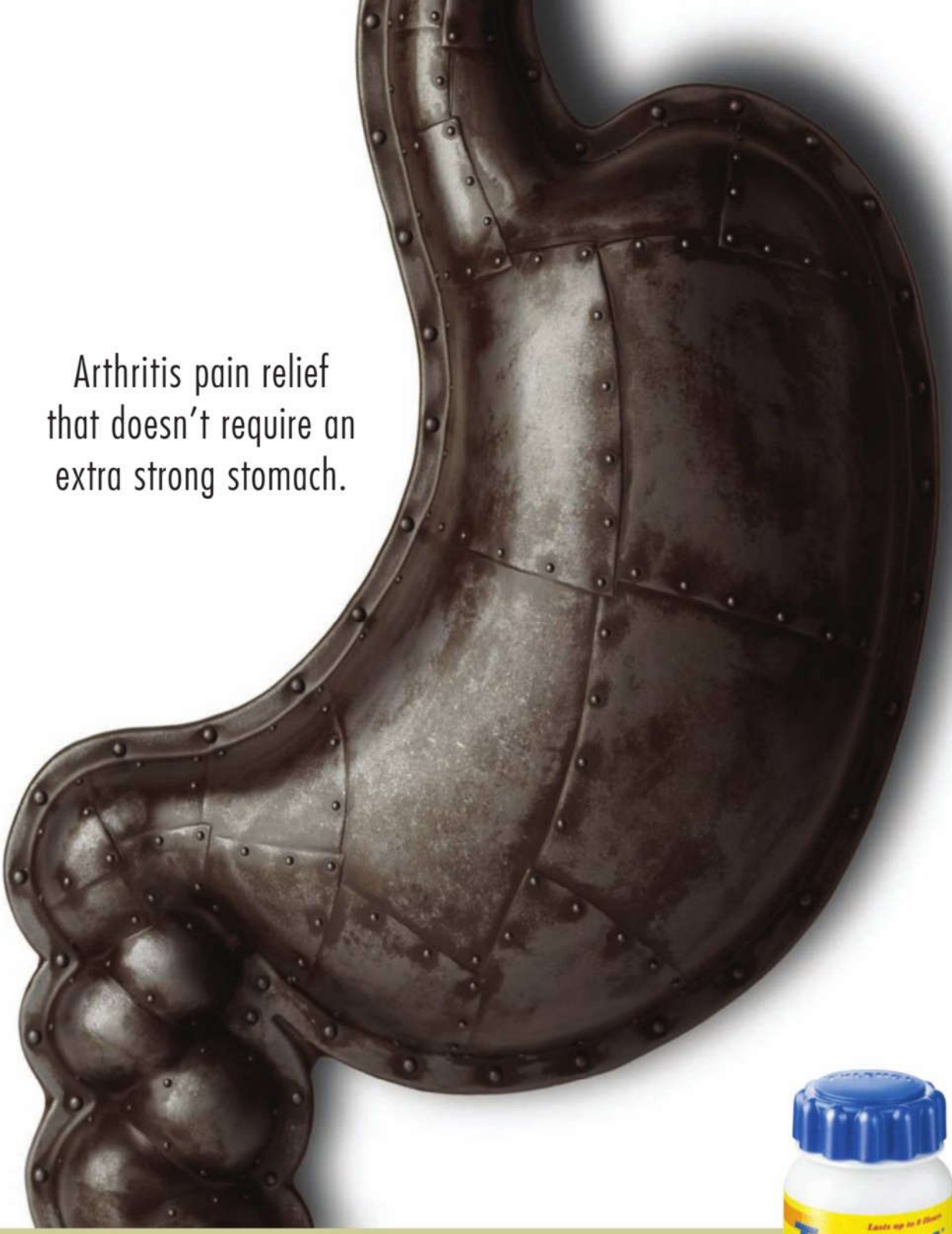
PM40063001 R09708

CANADA $6.95

0 56698 70431 7

11

Display until November 30, 2006



Arthritis pain relief that doesn't require an extra strong stomach.

McNeil McNeil Consumer Healthcare *Trademark

When it comes to tough pain, TYLENOL* Arthritis Pain provides up to 8 hours of long-lasting relief. Yet it's still gentle on your stomach. So the pain in your joints doesn't become a pain in your stomach.

The Arthritis Society

Easy to open cap commended by The Arthritis Society

1-800-265-7323 Tylenol.ca

The Beaver
CANADA'S HISTORY MAGAZINE

Published bimonthly by
Canada's National History Society

Deborah Morrison President and C.E.O.
Doug Whiteway Editor
Jennifer Nault Associate Editor
Richard F.J. Wood Senior Editor
Michel Groleau Art Director
Dorothy Bosma Editorial Assistant
Tanja Hütter Web Editor

478–167 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 0T6 Canada
Phone: (204) 988-9300
Fax: (204) 988-9309
Toll Free 1-800-816-6777
E-mail: thebeaver@historysociety.ca
Member Services E-mail: memberservices@historysociety.ca
World Wide Web site: TheBeaver.ca

Change of address? Please notify Member Services 6 weeks prior to change.

Editorial guidelines can be found on our website. We assume no responsibility for unsolicited material.

Copyright © 2006 by Canada's National History Society.
All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission of the publisher is strictly forbidden.

ISSN 0005-7517

Annual Subscription (6 issues):
Canada, $29.95 (includes GST).
Residents of Manitoba, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia add $1.96 on a one-year subscription. Please add $8 a year for U.S. orders and $15 a year for foreign orders.
Single copy price: $6.95
Subscribe by phone, fax, mail, e-mail, or through our website: TheBeaver.ca

GST Registration Number: 13868 1408 RT

Advertising Representatives:
Brian Stendel
Phone: (416) 630-4274 **Fax:** (416) 630-8557
E-mail: bstendel@brainstone.ca
Michael Wile
Phone: (416) 531-1483 **Fax:** (416) 531-1612
E-mail: michaelwile@historysociety.ca

Mailing Preference
Occasionally, we may provide our subscriber list to external organizations that may have products or services of interest to our readers.
Subscribers have the right to request their names not be used for such third-party purposes. If you do not wish to receive such communications, please contact Member Services, above.

Canadian Postmaster:
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
The Beaver
478–167 Lombard Avenue,
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0T6

U.S. Postmaster:
Send address changes to
The Beaver
c/o UPS Supply Chain Solutions, Box 369,
Pembina, North Dakota 58271

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40063001
Registration No. 09708.

Postage paid in Winnipeg.

Issued October 2006

Printed in Canada on recycled paper

We acknowledge the financial support of the **Government of Canada** through the *Publications Assistance Program* and the *Canada Magazine Fund* toward our mailing and editorial costs.

Canada

City slickers

In 1900 only one country on earth was urban, as defined by having more than half of its population living in urban areas – England. In 2000, by the same definition, only one country on earth remained rural – China. Immigration, the mass movement of peoples, is one of the great stories of the twentieth century, but less visible in that migration, perhaps, has been the mass movement of people from the country to the city. While that movement, spurred by urban employment, education, and cultural opportunities, has by and large materially advantaged masses of people, something has been lost in the transfer, including a whole range of traditions, expressions, and nuances.

This was brought home to us most acutely here at *The Beaver* this summer, when readers, receiving their August/September issue, quickly alerted us to an error – multiple errors – in a picture caption to the story "Selling the Prairie Good Life." The illustration, the front cover of a 1927 *Canada West* magazine, featured, we wrote, "A young boy playfully hiding beneath a bushel of hay."

THOMAS FRICKE

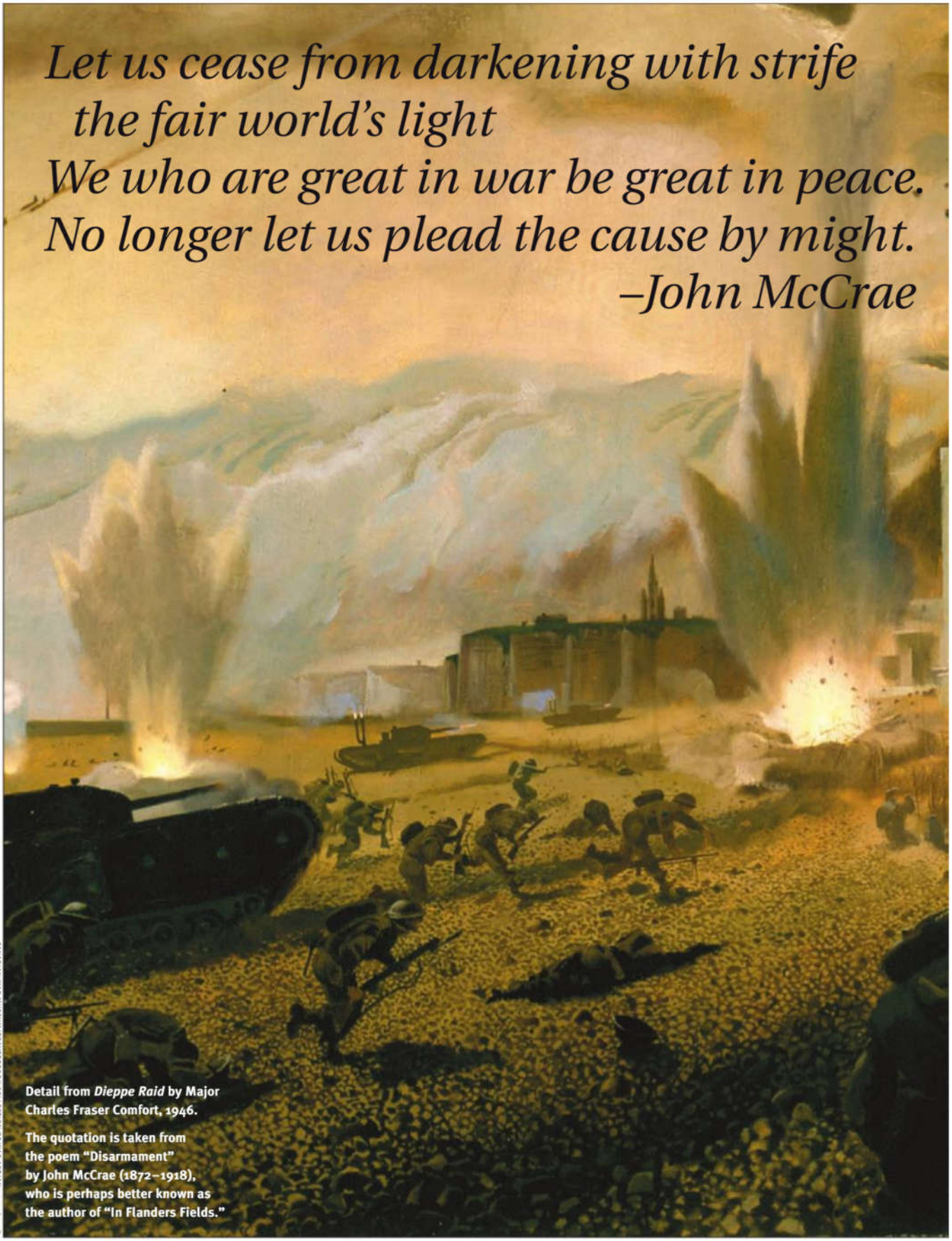
According to the inundation of emails and letters (probably the largest since I joined this publication shortly after the Rebellion of 1837), the boy was doing no such thing. That was no bushel; that was a stook. I commend you to the Letters pages and to the Our Home & Native feature on page 8 to learn more about stooks, but in our defence, m'lord, we *Beaver* editors are city slickers. We are among the many whose grandparents or great-grandparents or great-great grandparents left the land, headed for the bright (possibly gas) lights, and neglected to reminisce with their offspring about the pleasure of stooking (a word, I might add, that goes unrecognized by my city-slicking computer's spell-check).

Well, in this instance, we are schooled – for weeks we lashed ourselves with a wet noodle made from flour ground from the finest prairie wheat – and now, with the word "stook" safely tucked into our *Beaver* style guide, we trust never to make that mistook again.

It may not have been our finest hour in the fact-checking and copyediting department, but *The Beaver* has had acclaim elsewhere recently. In Vancouver, in July, at the Western Magazine Awards, which honours publications in British Columbia, the three Prairie provinces, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories, two *Beaver* contributors won the top prize for their writing: for Saskatchewan, James M. Pitsula received the Gold Award for "Disparate Duo," a centennial examination of Alberta and Saskatchewan that was the cover story of the August/September 2005 edition; for Manitoba, Charlotte Gray received the Gold Award for "85 Years of *The Beaver*," her thoughtful overview of this magazine's own history, which was the cover story of the October/November 2005 edition. Congratulations to both. We were also pleased to receive a honourable mention at the National Magazine Awards in June in Toronto for Jean-Marie Benoit's illustration that opened the August/September 2005 edition story "Inspector Cruickshank & The Case of the Beryl G."

Doug Whiteway
Editor
editors@historysociety.ca

COVER: LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA/C-4291


Let us cease from darkening with strife
the fair world's light
We who are great in war be great in peace.
No longer let us plead the cause by might.
–John McCrae

Detail from *Dieppe Raid* by Major Charles Fraser Comfort, 1946.

The quotation is taken from the poem "Disarmament" by John McCrae (1872–1918), who is perhaps better known as the author of "In Flanders Fields."

CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM/BEAVERBROOK COLLECTION OF WAR ART/AN19770260-2183

The Beaver

October | November 2006 Vol. 86:5

Features

The War that Made Canada BY WILLIAM M. FOWLER JR. **16**
The Seven Years' War ignited in North America, then spread around the world. The first global war, 250 years ago it set Canada's course as a nation.

Killer Flu BY SUSAN GOLDENBERG **27**
Canada's response to the Spanish flu epidemic of 1917 has much to teach us about managing its modern avian relative.

Different Drummer BY NORM AND CAROL HALL **34**
B.C. premier Amor De Cosmos styled himself "Lover of the Universe," but there was no love lost between him and his political opponents.

Reflections of Revolution BY JULIE GEDEON **40**
Hungary erupted fifty years ago in anti-communist revolt, sending thousands of refugees to Canada. Their memories of the risky border crossing remain lucid.

Departments

Letters More ripping yarns. Ducking Duck Lake. Our mistook. **6**

Currents A new Arrow. Unearthing Cartier. **8–12**

Our Home & Native Stooking machine. **8**

Living History Streetcar time travel. **8**

On the Web Just-in-time timelines. **9**

Moment A grisly Antarctic discovery. **10**

Beaver Bites Canoe cup. **11**

Calendar Touring Canada's urban landscapes. **12**

Explorations Pearson's peacekeeping legacy. **14**

Reviews Dial "G" for genius. Mission improbable. **47**

Christopher Moore Will the real Jimmy Gardiner please stand up? **52**

Getaway Iqaluit by foot – or dog sled. **54**

Your Story My father, the spy. **56**

History Matters Winners of the Governor General's Award for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History. **59**

Album Therapy. **62**

Letters

More ripping yarns

I enjoyed Jill Foran's article on the Canadian connection to Jack the Ripper ["The Evil Deeds of Dr. Cream," August/September 2006]. There are others as well.

It was first assumed that Ripper suspect Dr. Francis Tumblety was born in Canada, but this proved to be false. He did, however, travel extensively in Canada East and West before Confederation and had offices in Toronto, Montreal, and Saint John before he was forced to flee back to the United States the night before an inquest jury found him complicit in the death of one of his patients.

G. Wentworth Bell Smith was another Canadian Ripper suspect who was briefly investigated by Scotland Yard in connection with the Whitechapel murders. His odd behaviour caused his landlord to suspect him. He disappeared, supposedly returning to Canada, before the police could interview him.

The Ontario police even suggested to the British Home Office that a Jack Irwin, a prisoner in a Chatham jail cell, might be the Ripper, but he was still in Canada at the requisite time.

As for Dr. Cream and the Whitechapel murders, there is ample documentation proving that he was indeed in Joliet Prison during the "Autumn of Terror" and was not the elusive "Saucy Jack."

Wolf Vanderlinden
Associate Editor
Ripper Notes
Madison, Wisconsin

Relatively speaking

Jerry Amernic's article about Babe Ruth's first home run [Moment, August/September 2006] has two significant errors: one is factual; the other, an error of opinion, at least for a Canadian!

Amernic names the owner of the ball club and ferry boat service in Toronto at the time as L.J. "Sol" Lolman. He was, in reality, Lawrence J. "Lol" Solman, my step-great-grandfather. Solman (Soloman, originally) had two brothers, Sol and Abe. All three worked for my great-grandmother Emily Hanlan, handling businesses at Hanlan's Point on the Toronto Islands. Lol Solman married her after her husband died and in the process became a "brother-in-law" to the most famous Canadian athlete of the era, Edward "Ned" Hanlan, her brother.

Amernic's error of opinion is citing Babe Ruth as the "first sports superstar." Ned Hanlan was, hands down, the first international sports superstar in the 1880s. He was the Muhammed Ali of his day, both in his athletic accomplishments and his showmanship, and he was probably the first native-born Canadian to receive international recognition in any field of endeavor – politics, the arts, medicine, military – so much that even the Americans claimed him as one of their own! Hanlan was even a superstar before the great John L. Sullivan and long before any baseball hero. There is a grand statue of Hanlan on Hanlan's Point, and close by is the small plaque mounted on a stone – "Babe Ruth In Toronto."

Ted English
Atascadero, California

Private v. public

The article "Who will sell Prairie grain?" [Explorations, August/September 2006] was a sad commentary on the unseemly influence business holds over government. Isn't it supposed to be one citizen one vote, not one dollar one vote?

The efficient Wheat Board's opponent has always been the propagandizing Winnipeg Grain Exchange – speculators in wheat futures. The trading does nothing for the producer and raises the price to pay for the profits they make in a hard day of trading – not as hard as harvesting or handling the grain, but traders write the script.

Sadly, the same influence on politicians has been around forever. If you saw *Prairie Giant: The Tommy Douglas Story* on TV, you may remember the scene where the Liberal MP smirks at Tommy, saying he has forgotten that "the business of government is business."

Who truly believes that private for-profit can do it cheaper than public not-for-profit? Consider the results of privatizing Ontario's natural gas and electricity – prices went through the roof, not vice versa.

Bob Scott
Petrolia, Ontario

Back and forth

"Back in the USSR" by Vadim Kukushkin [August/September 2006] was a very interesting and well-written article. It is a story not well known by present-day readers of Doukhobor history and should be referred to by people studying the history of these people in Canada.

A related event, which started in 1923, was the exodus of the Mennonite people from this part of Eastern Europe to Rosthern, Saskatchewan. Strange that one group couldn't wait to get out of Russia, and the other group couldn't wait to get in.

My mother was born in this area out of Odessa in 1909, left Russia in 1925, and was grateful to Canada for the rest of her life.

Peter Scott
Victoria, British Columbia

Ducking Duck Lake

Thank you to D. Grant Black for his Getaway [August/September 2006] to the Rebellion Route in Saskatchewan. I know this area well having grown up nearby and having watched over the

past fifty years or so how the remarkable history of the area has worked its way into the consciousness of its residents. The area includes all the places Black mentions – Batoche, Fish Creek, Fort Carlton, Fort Battleford, and Cut Knife. But why omit Duck Lake? After all, the Battle of Duck Lake on March 26, 1885, signaled the beginning of the uprising. Here eighteen combatants were killed, including twelve members of the government forces and six Métis, including Isadore Dumont, brother of Gabriel. And while the battlefield is poorly marked, not so the description of the battle as shown in the Duck Lake Museum, a must-see for anyone interested in the events of 1885.

As for Fort Carlton being looted and burned, hardly so. NWMP officers and staff at the fort, in their haste to leave after the Battle of Duck Lake, accidentally set the place ablaze, never to be rebuilt as a trading post.

CARL A. KRAUSE, PH.D.
SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

Our mistook

Re: "Selling the Prairie Good Life" in the August/September 2006 issue. You will probably receive several letters about the caption on page 24 for the magazine cover on page 25. The caption states, in part, "depicts a young boy playfully hiding beneath a bushel of hay." He is hiding beneath a stook of grain, probably wheat. A stook is a small stack of bales (not bushels) of hay or straw, or sheaves of grain, set up to facilitate drying before threshing, in the case of grain.

Units of cut hay are referred to as bales. A bushel in Canada is a measure for grain, fruit, etc. equal to eight Imperial gallons or 36.4 litres.

With agriculture becoming less important in Canada's economy, we should try to use historically correct terminology from the past. In modern times the binder, which cut and tied the sheaves of grain, and the threshing machine, which separated grain from straw, have been replaced by the combine, which cuts and threshes the grain all in one machine.

MARY M. SMITH
CANMORE, ALBERTA

First of all, hay is not measured by the bushel. It is commonly sold by the ton, or tonne, or sometimes by the bale. While the common hayseed, Timothy, could be measured by the bushel, it is sold by the pound or kilogram. It is generally sowed in a mixture with other grass seeds, and legumes such as alfalfa, bird's-foot trefoil, and one or more of the clovers for fodder and pasture. Wheat, barley, oats and other cereals can be measured by the bushel (volume) or tonnes (weight).

The boy in the illustration is hiding in a stook of what appears to be wheat. His chores may not be done, as the binder with what appears to be a sheaf carrier is still at work. Sheaf carriers, which carried six or eight sheaves to be deposited at one spot, were very common in the West; much less so in the East.

We were taught as youngsters that there was a western stook made up of eight sheaves, and an eastern version that had six sheaves. We used to stook five rows of sheaves along the middle row. There was a certain pride in making the rows as straight as possible. We usually use six sheaves.

In some parts of North America, stooks were known as shocks. The daddy of the binder, the mechanical reaper, cut and gathered the grain to be deposited in a loose bundle on the ground called a gavel. These were then bound by hand using a few plants of the crop before stooking. But that is probably more than you really wanted to know.

WAYNE MCKELL
HOWICK, QUEBEC

Just another reminder that we are losing our collective memory, as urbanized thinking emerges on top, showing ignorance of our once powerful rural way of life.

CHRISTINE PIKE
WASECA, SASKATCHEWAN

What have we now lost? Where are we headed? Technology has now carried us beyond the days of observing nature in its full glory.

DOROTHY J. CHARTRAND
EDMONTON, ALBERTA

From a Manitoba farm-born reader, shame on you city slicker historians.

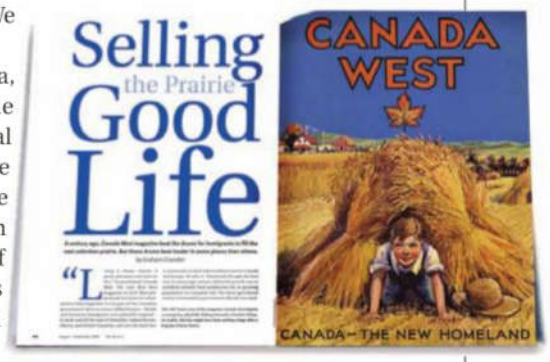
RUSS PEDEN
DORVAL, QUEBEC

Perhaps Chairman Mao was onto something when he sent city kids out for a spell of work in the country!

JAMES GOW
FERGUS, ONTARIO

ERRATUM

The photographer of John Adams, the subject of "'Ghostly Walks' with John Adams," the Victoria, B.C., walking tour guide featured in Living History in the June/July 2006 issue, was mistakenly identified as Michael Sevigny. The photographer was in fact Michael Tourigny. *The Beaver* regrets the error.



***The Beaver* welcomes readers' comments.** E-mail us at editors@historysociety.ca or write to *The Beaver*, 478–167 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 0T6 Canada. Please include your address and daytime phone number. Letters may be edited for clarity or length.

Currents

Our home & native...

Stooking machine

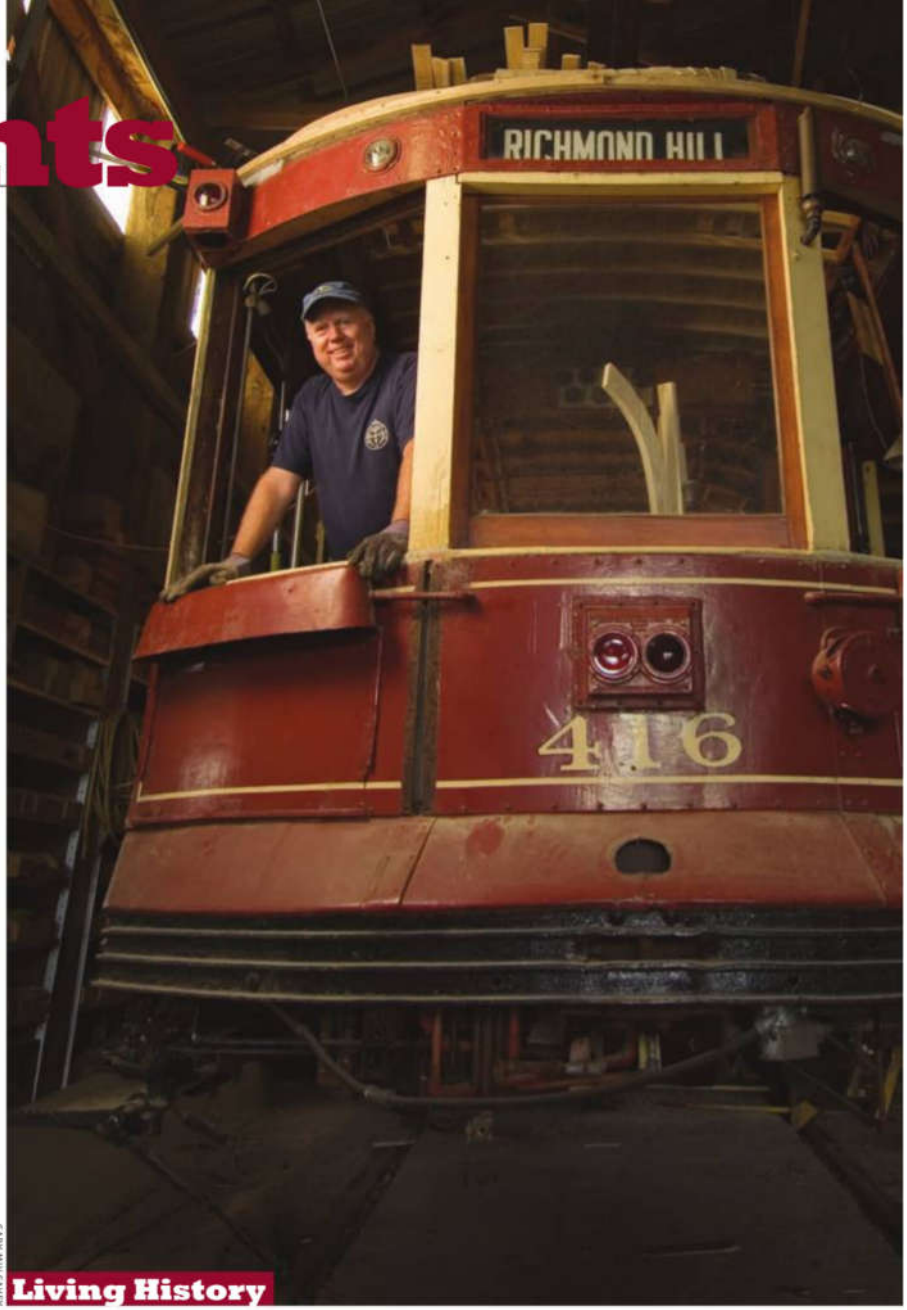
To build a stook, workers gathered three to thirty sheaves of grain – the number depended on the type of crop and the farmer's preference. The sheaves leaned against one another so they would remain upright, allowing them to dry, resulting in unique, tidy, tent-like structures. Once dry, sheaves were tossed onto a cart by hand or pitchfork.

GLENBOW ARCHIVES NA-3-476

A Boychuk Stooker in 1928.

Farm labourers described stooking as back-breaking, so there were many attempts to automate the process. The most successful, at least creatively, was made by John and Nicholas Boychuk from Alberta. They patented a stooking machine in 1925 that farmers and merchants enthusiastically reviewed. It took the sheaves from a binder, positioned them in a guide that could be customized for different numbers of sheaves, gathered them into a stook, and set them on the ground.

By the late 1920s, the Boychuk brothers were ready to go, but fate intervened. The stock market crash and Great Depression dried up the investment capital needed to get their product into wide use. By 1937, Thomas Carroll had invented a self-propelled combine harvester that did it all – binding, stooking, and threshing – eliminating the need for a separate stooker. **–R.W.**



GARY MULCAHEY

Living History

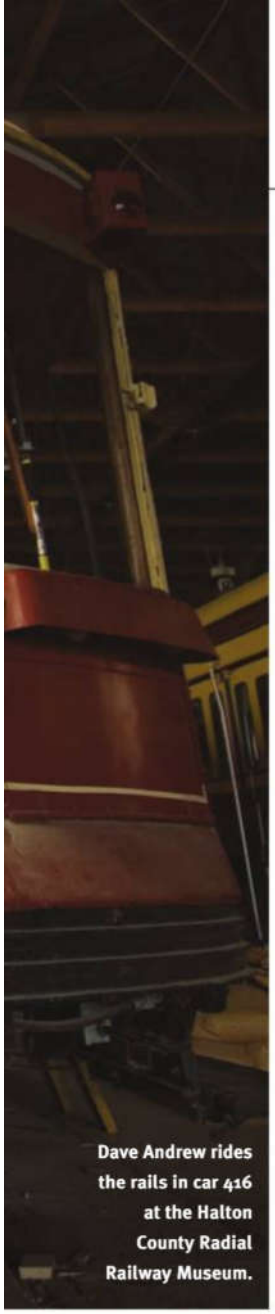
Rescuing and restoring car 416

Dave Andrew first heard about the Halton County Radial Railway Museum in a 1962 newspaper article that told how a group of streetcar enthusiasts had rescued a large Peter Witt streetcar from the scrapyard. He's been hooked ever since. In a way it was inevitable – his grandfather worked for the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) and operated the streetcars Andrew now works to preserve.

TAKE THE DAY OFF

October 8

To mourn the politicians lost at sea when the government schooner *Speedy* sank in a storm on Lake Ontario in 1804. Stay afloat.



Dave Andrew rides the rails in car 416 at the Halton County Radial Railway Museum.

The collection of electric railway equipment at the Halton County Radial Railway Museum is the largest in Canada. Located near Rockwood, Ontario, west of Toronto, it includes two Peter Witt centre-door cars that ran in Toronto from the early 1920s until the introduction of the subway in 1954. Volunteers restore and operate a variety of streetcars and interurbans (electric trolleys that ran between cities and towns) over five kilometres of track, making history come alive.

Over the years, Andrew, a former Toronto police officer, held various jobs at the museum, but it wasn't until 2003 that he became project manager of his first restoration job, restoring car 416, built in 1925 for the TTC. The car ran between Toronto and Port Credit and, later, between Toronto and Richmond Hill. After service ended in 1948, car 416 was bought and moved to Hillsburg, Ontario, where it was transformed into a private residence complete with sitting room, bedroom, and a hot plate. The original leaves of the streetcar doors were fastened together and used as the entrance. The owner was aware of the museum's interest in acquiring car 416, and in 1972, offered it to them.

Some restoration work was done over the years, but never completed. So Andrew, with the help of three others, took over to finish the job. Andrew estimates that he and his team members each spend about forty days a year working on it at the museum.

Andrew learned the skills he needed as he went along. "In the beginning, I didn't know what the heck I was doing," he says. While working on 416, he has picked up some basic plumbing and electrical skills and learned how to restore and replace woodwork, including how to steam and bend wood. Since replacement parts are no longer being made, Andrew and his team have had to craft everything themselves.

"You measure everything in terms of years, not days or months," he says, commenting on the rate of progress in the first two years. Now that it's finally coming together, Andrew can see the fruits of his labour.

The roof is finished, the restoration of windows nearly done, and electrical work and lighting are going ahead. However, it will be another year before it's complete, as doors and seats need to be installed.

His next project? "Probably restoring Hamilton Street Railway car 521, as it's similar to car 416."

If you wish to volunteer, visit, or make a donation to the museum to help restore 416, check out the Halton County Radial Railway's website at <www.hcry.org>.

– Peter D.A. Warwick

ON THE Web

www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com
Choose from a list of periods (pre-human to present day) or categories such as transportation, law, and women's rights. While most of the timelines are textual, the "100 Greatest Events" features a graphical interface that brings up short articles and related images when you click an event.

www.cmhg.gc.ca
From the homepage you are taken to a dynamic timeline that traces Canada's military history over the past one-thousand years. Images morph as you slide through the years. Choose your era, select from subjects such as weapons or tactics, and a listing of articles and links appears in the results window below. Beautifully designed and addictive.

www.canadaheritage.com/index.cfm
Click "Explore Canadian History" from the main menu and choose from four timelines. "Early Canada" runs from 5000 B.C. until 1880. "Canada at War" covers Canada's involvement in World War I and II. "Great Canadian Events" runs from 965 to 1996, though listings prior to 1600 are sparse. The "Famous Canadians" timeline features artists from Susanna Moodie to Alanis Morissette.

October 20
To mark the establishment of regular mail service between Canada and the U.S. in 1792. Stamp on something.

October 23
To celebrate the 1938 radio broadcast of "A Musical Portrait of Canada," the first major Canadian production transmitted around the world. Tune in.

Currents

Unearthing secrets of Cartier

In 2005, archaeologist Yves Chrétien found the location of Canada's earliest French colony. Now, after secretly assessing the breadth of the find, his discovery has been brought to light.

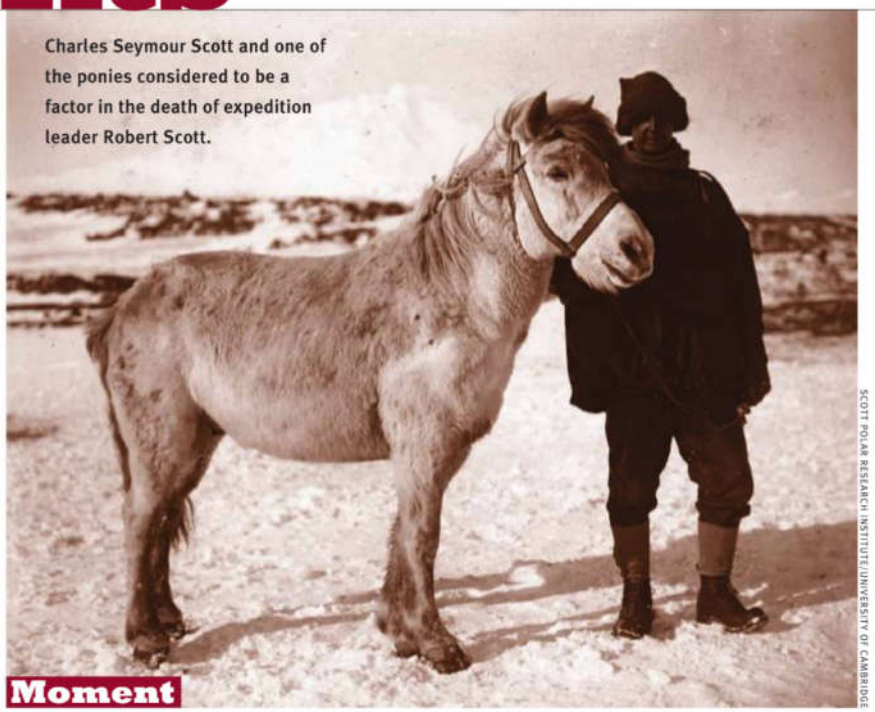
Chrétien accidentally unearthed the remains of Cartier's Cap Rouge fort, dating back to 1541, while conducting an archaeological inventory prior to the construction of a scenic lookout about ten kilometers east of Quebec City. Cartier established Charlesbourg-

Explorer Jacques Cartier

Royal during his third voyage, passing it to Jean-Françoise de La Rocque de Roberval after the harsh winter and living conditions wore down Cartier's colonists, though it was rumoured he and Roberval also did not get along.

Roberval renamed it France-Royal then abandoned the fort in 1543, ordering it be burned to the ground to keep it from the Spanish and native peoples. Its location became a mystery.

Over 150 well-preserved artifacts have been recovered since the initial find, with more work yet to be done. The site has been closed off while the research continues, but should be open to the public in time for Quebec City's 400th anniversary in 2008. **–R.W.**



Charles Seymour Scott and one of the ponies considered to be a factor in the death of expedition leader Robert Scott.

SCOTT POLAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE/UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Moment

November 12, 1912, 11:00 am
Charles Seymour Wright finds death site of Antarctic explorer Robert Falcon Scott

Born in 1887, Charles Seymour Wright, the son of an insurance executive, grew up in Toronto's tony Rosedale. He was head boy at private Upper Canada College, excelled in sports despite wearing glasses, and won scholarships to the University of Toronto and Cambridge, where he studied physics.

Wright was among the eight thousand applicants for a spot on Robert Scott's 1910–13 Antarctic expedition. It appealed to Wright's sense of adventure – he had canoed in unmapped northern Ontario – and to his interest in comparing the ice ages of the Antarctic and Canada. This was to be Scott's second attempt to reach the South Pole, as he had failed in a previous effort made from 1901–04.

When Scott rejected his written application, Wright proved his stamina by hiking the eighty kilometres from Cambridge to Scott's London office non-stop in less than twelve hours, subsisting on hardboiled eggs. Impressed, Scott hired him to accompany his party as physicist, chemist, and assistant meteorologist. At Wright's suggestion, he was also made glaciologist so he could be included in actual exploration. Funds were scarce, so there was no payment, only food and clothing.

"Good-hearted, strong, keen," Scott described Wright, nicknamed Silas. "Very

November 10

To note the 1950 accidental dropping of a Mark IV nuclear bomb on St-Alexandre-de-Kamouraska, Quebec. Duck and cover.

thorough, absolutely ready for everything. Nothing seems to worry him." Proudly Canadian (his sledge flags had designs of a beaver and Maple Leaf), Wright named a glacier he discovered "Canada Glacier" and mountains after University of Toronto professors and its president. Another team member named a nearby ice sheet "Wright Glacier." Scott, who refused to have anything named after him, had right of approval and gave it.

Perhaps because Wright wasn't British, Scott excluded him from the five-man team on the final leg of the 1,280-kilometre trek to the pole. Instead, Wright, who had been a member of the provisionary party, remained behind.

Scott's team arrived at the South Pole on January 17, 1912, only to discover that Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen had taken a shorter route and beaten them by a month. Scott brooded in his journal, "All the daydreams must go. Now for the run home and a desperate struggle. I wonder if we can do it."

Scott made two chief mistakes: To haul supplies on sledges, he relied on ponies, whose legs sank in the snow, instead of dogs. And he took four companions, rather than three as he had originally planned. In *Silas: The Antarctic Diaries and Memoir of Charles S. Wright*, a memoir published in 1993, eighteen years after his death, Wright commented: "The food was inadequate. The low temperatures could have been foreseen based on [explorer Ernest] Shackleton's 1909 Antarctic book recording sharp temperature drops in the timeline and area where Scott was."

One by one, Scott's team members met their demise. Edward Evans died of injuries suffered when he fell down a crevasse. Frostbitten Titus Oates, believing he was slowing the team, gallantly disappeared into a blizzard. "A damn fine finish," Wright wrote in his diary. Scott, Edgar Wilson, and Henry Bowers were twenty kilometres from a supply depot when a blizzard stranded them, condemning them to death. On March 29 Scott wrote, "It seems a pity, but I do not think I can write more."

The Antarctic winter prevented a search effort until late October. Wright navigated for the search team. On November 12, 1912, he spotted the tip of a tent – the death site of Scott and his team. Wright said that entering the tent felt like entering a cathedral. The search party read the burial service from Corinthians and built an enormous snow cairn surmounted by a cross made of ski runners to mark where the bodies were to remain. Wright later explained, "It seemed perfectly obvious Scott's last resting place should be in the tractless ice fields, which were the scene of his lifework." On the cross they listed the men's names and wrote, "A slight token to perpetuate their gallant and successful attempt to reach the Pole."

It was not until February 1913, when Scott's ship returned for the expedition's men, that the world learned of the tragedy. Returning to Toronto in June, Wright was given a gold watch by city officials. "But the cost of new springs was so high I used my old dollar watch," he said. Subsequently, he became director of scientific research for the British Admiralty and was knighted for supervising the development of radar during World War II.

– Susan Goldenberg

Beaver Bites

Wooden canoe cup **Profiles of Canadian artifacts both beautiful and beaverful**

Dating back to 1900, this canoe cup with a beaver perched on its handle was likely hand carved from the flat, knotty growth (or burl) of a tree by a hunter or voyageur. Such practical objects often included personal creative and artistic elements. Known as *naagan*, an Ojibwa word for a cup, bowl, or dish, a canoe cup was used for drinking, eating, or bailing out a canoe, though we think it would also make an attractive gravy boat.

PHOTO BY MATTHEW BEVERLY FROM *THE MAPLE LEAF FOREVER: A CELEBRATION OF CANADIAN SYMBOLS*. DONNA AND NIGEL HUTCHINS. BOSTON MILLS PRESS. DISTRIBUTED BY FIREFLY BOOKS. REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION.

November 16

To commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first Canadian performance of a European drama, *Le Théâtre de Neptune*, in Port Royal. Play it up.

November 26

To remember the 1851 formation in Montreal of the first YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) in North America. Sing "It's fun to stay at the ..."

Currents

Calendar Oct./Nov. 06

Edmonton, *Skyline of the North*

CHARLES FRASER COMFORT/MCCORD MUSEUM

New Brunswick

Cities of Canada: The Seagram Collection

Leave behind traditional visions of prairies and snow as you tour Canada's urban landscapes through such artists as Charles Comfort, A.Y. Jackson, and A.S. Casson. They capture the evolution of urban life as Canada transformed into an industrial nation.

September 15 to December 15, 2006
New Brunswick Museum, St. John
(506) 643-2322
www.nbm-mnb.ca

Alberta

Syncrude Gallery of Aboriginal Culture

Journey through 11,000 years of native history artifacts and interactive displays. The gallery immerses visitors in the settings, from a bison hunt and first contact to oppression and the present day, ending with a message of enduring hope.

Ongoing
Royal Alberta Museum, Edmonton
(780) 453-9100
www.royalalbertamuseum.ca/gallery/peoples/info.htm

Ontario

Open Hearts – Closed Doors

Explore the lives of 1,123 Jewish war orphans who came to Canada from 1947–49 as part of the War Orphans Project. Most came from the horrors of the Holocaust, reaching Canada by way of Pier 21 in Halifax.

October 16 to December 16, 2006
Grey Roots Museum and Archives, Owen Sound
(519) 376-3690
www.greyroots.com

Arrow resurrected and revealed

Back in our October/November 1999 issue, *The Beaver* noted that the Toronto Aerospace Museum (TAM) in Downsview Park had started construction of a commemorative model of the Avro Arrow. Now, construction is complete, and Arrowheads around the country will finally see a large-as-life model of their devotion. On October 8, the museum is scheduled to unveil the one-of-a-kind CF-105 Arrow replica; the next day, the plane will become a regular part of its permanent collection. More than one-hundred-and-fifty volunteers built the Arrow to exact specifications of the original (24 metres long with a wingspan of 15 metres).

It has been a smooth flight for the project aside from one fierce storm that lifted the aft section (moved temporarily outside), tossed it around the TAM, dragged it more than two-hundred metres down the road (avoiding all parked cars), and deposited it onto a pile of rubble. Though the static model cannot fly or taxi, museum curator and manager Paul Cabot quips, "Part of the Arrow has flown."

COURTESY OF TORONTO AEROSPACE MUSEUM

One of the TAM volunteers hard at work on the Avro Arrow replica.

The replica features speed brakes that go up and down, a weapons pack that opens to "drop" a missile, and working tail lights. "The model itself is not the feature, the story is the feature. It's there to help tell the story," says Cabot.

Beaver columnist Christopher Moore, in his article "What is it About the Avro Arrow?" (August/September 1999), wrote: "The Arrow touches issues of national identity that are as alive in the 1990s as they were in the 1950s. It prefigures in supersonic fashion the story of Eaton's stores, Winnipeg Jets, Canadian magazines, and every distinctive Canadian tradition undermined by globalization and 'the realities of the marketplace.'"

The replica will likely reinvigorate interest in the Arrow for devotees and potentially add fuel to the ongoing debate over the merits of Diefenbaker's decision to scrap the controversial, $780-million project in 1959 and destroy all test models. **–R.W.**

From behind the lens to beyond the grave in one night

Two documentaries, two moments in history. You never know where we'll take you on TVO's History Mondays. Each week, we present critically acclaimed historical documentaries at 7 pm and 10 pm. And, of course, we show them uncut and uninterrupted. People. Places. Events. From Canada and around the globe. That's History Mondays on TVO.

History Mondays at 7 pm and 10 pm EST

tvo

TVOntario
It's all about learning!

Where to find us: Cable subscribers: Channel 2 (channel may vary in some areas),
Bell Expressvu subscribers: Channel 265, Star Choice subscribers: Channel 353

Explorations

David Pugliese on

Pearson's peacekeeping legacy

In a rapidly changing world, where mounting terrorist threats have confused our notion of war, will Canadian Forces keep the peace?

The stage was set in late October 1956 when Israeli troops invaded Egypt. They were soon followed by British and French forces in a combined bid to seize control of the Suez Canal. The Soviet Union was threatening to intervene and help the Egyptians.

At the United Nations, representatives from various countries struggled to end the growing crisis before it spiralled out of control. It was at an emergency meeting of the UN's General Assembly that Lester B. Pearson, then Canada's secretary of state for External Affairs, proposed the creation of a large UN military force to keep the peace between the warring factions while a political compromise was worked out. He offered Canadian troops for the job, and after an all-night session of the General Assembly, his plan was approved.

The United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), led by Canadian general Edison Louis Millard Burns, was formed and the soldiers were sent to supervise the withdrawal of French, British, and Israeli troops from Egypt. Once this was accomplished, UNEF's role would then be to act as a buffer between the Egyptian and Israeli armies. Canadians would patrol the northern section of the Israeli-Egyptian border while Yugoslav troops were to handle the rest.

More than one-thousand Canadian military personnel took part in the mission.

The next year, Pearson won the Nobel Peace Prize, the only Canadian ever to do so. In making its selection, the peace prize committee said the Canadian politician had "saved the world" with his proposal to defuse the Suez crisis. Today, Lester B. Pearson's vision during that tumultuous time remains embedded in the Canadian consciousness – even though some argue that it is no longer relevant in the world's conflict zones.

Five decades later, the legacy of the Suez crisis still resonates. Canadians have come to see peacekeeping as part of their national identity. It is reflected in our monuments and even our currency. For example, in October 1992 the federal government unveiled the Peacekeeping Monument across from the National Gallery in downtown Ottawa. A rendition of the monument is etched into some of our one-dollar coins. As well, an image of a peacekeeper armed only with binoculars is on Canada's ten-dollar bill. The government of Canada's website boasts that peacekeeping is an important aspect of the country's national heritage and a reflection of our fundamental beliefs. Schoolchildren who write letters to Canadian soldiers overseas often address them to "a peacekeeper."

Lester B. Pearson at the UN General Assembly in 1956.

H.J. REINHART/BEETMANN/CORBIS

In his book *Canada's Army: Waging War and Keeping Peace*, military historian Jack Granatstein dispels the myth that peacekeeping was invented during the Suez crisis. He writes that the UN had already organized several small observer missions to monitor the progress of ceasefires between warring states. For instance, in 1949, Canada had sent a number of officers to help create a ceasefire line and monitor disagreements between Pakistan and India in Kashmir.

What was created by Suez, Granatstein points out, was the belief that Canadian troops were somehow natural-born peacekeepers.

The Canadian public passionately embraced that image following the Suez crisis to become leading advocates for peacekeeping. Even when the government was reluctant to involve itself in some of the world's war zones, such as in the Congo in 1960, public pressure ensured that Canadian troops were sent.

Some observers have even suggested that Canadians have "peacekeeping in their DNA" or that because we are a nation of immigrants, who have had to resolve differences of opinion, that Canadians are inherent peacekeepers. After all, peace, order, and good government are reflected in our charter, notes Kathryn White, executive director of the United Nations Association in Canada.

Not everyone, however, is happy with the legacy of Suez. Talk to Canadian soldiers and many will tell you they dislike the peacekeeper label. Most soldiers like to think of themselves as combatants first; peacekeeping is a skill that, while useful, is not their first priority.

Retired major general Lewis MacKenzie maintains that peacekeeping has always been a sideline activity for the Cana-

dian military. Canada may have sent thousands of soldiers on UN missions from the 1960s to the 1990s, but it had many more thousands assigned to a combat role within NATO, ready to go to war with the former Soviet Union if need be.

Some Canadian officers and defence analysts argue that traditional Pearsonian-style peacekeeping, as practised in the Suez and elsewhere, is dead. There is no peace to keep in a world where terrorists and insurgents, instead of standing armies, dominate the war zones of today.

But the UN still operates such missions. In other cases, such as in the Congo today, it has approved a more aggressive style of operation, which includes combat to rein in warring factions.

Yet, today the Canadian Forces are unlikely to be involved in either. Over the last several years, Canada has been in a full-scale retreat from UN operations. In March, it shut down its contribution to the Golan Heights, ending a thirty-two-year presence that started in the aftermath of the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

With the withdrawal from the Golan Heights, Canada drops to fiftieth place in the rank of those contributing to UN missions, according to a March 2006 *Globe and Mail* article by Walter Dorn, associate professor at the Canadian Forces College and co-chair of the Department of Security Studies. The country once known as the committed peacekeeper now has fewer than sixty military personnel assigned to the world body, putting it on par with Guatemala, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka. The Canadian Forces have also pulled out their senior representative from the UN's peacekeeping directorate, arguing that the officer is needed back in Ottawa to work on the future transformation of the military.

Last year the Canadian Forces declined to send four additional soldiers to help deal with the ongoing crisis in the Congo, a catastrophe that is killing more than one-thousand people a day. Instead, Canada has nine soldiers among the sixteen-thousand United Nations troops in the Congo.

The Canadian government also recently declined to commit troops to the Darfur region in Sudan, even as human rights observers warned of the growing genocide there. As an alternative, the Canadian Forces are focusing on what they call higher priority and higher threat missions, such as fighting insurgents in Afghanistan. Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor has said that the focus of Canada's overseas military commitment for the near future will be the NATO/U.S. mission in Afghanistan and there will be few troops left over to be sent elsewhere, either on UN or other operations.

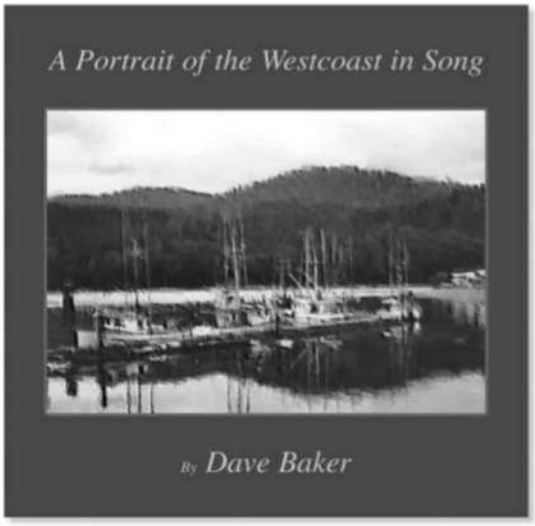
But the continuing problem for the Canadian military and the federal government is that the public is still anchored to the image of UN peacekeeping made famous during the Suez crisis. That message has been consistently delivered over the years by public opinion polls, done both for the Canadian Forces and other agencies.

Typical is a 2004 survey for the Department of National Defence, which noted that about 57 percent of respondents favoured a military involved in a traditional peacekeeping role, while only 41 percent supported a peacemaking role, which might involve fighting alongside troops from other nations to force peace in a disputed area. "Although Canadians recognize the need for a versatile military force, and understand the need to be combat ready, their preferred role for the forces is as peacekeepers and deliverers of humanitarian and disaster assistance," a Defence Department analysis of the poll concluded.

Trying to change the public's support for peacekeeping in favour of more combat-oriented roles, such as that in Afghanistan, may be more difficult than the Canadian military and government thinks. Rightly or wrongly, fifty years after the end of the Suez crisis, Canadians still want their armed forces to play the role of the honest peace-broker on the world stage.

David Pugliese is author of *Canada's Secret Commandos: The Unauthorized Story of Joint Task Force Two*, as well as *Shadow Wars: Special Forces in the New Battle Against Terrorism*.

A CD of Westcoast Folk Music

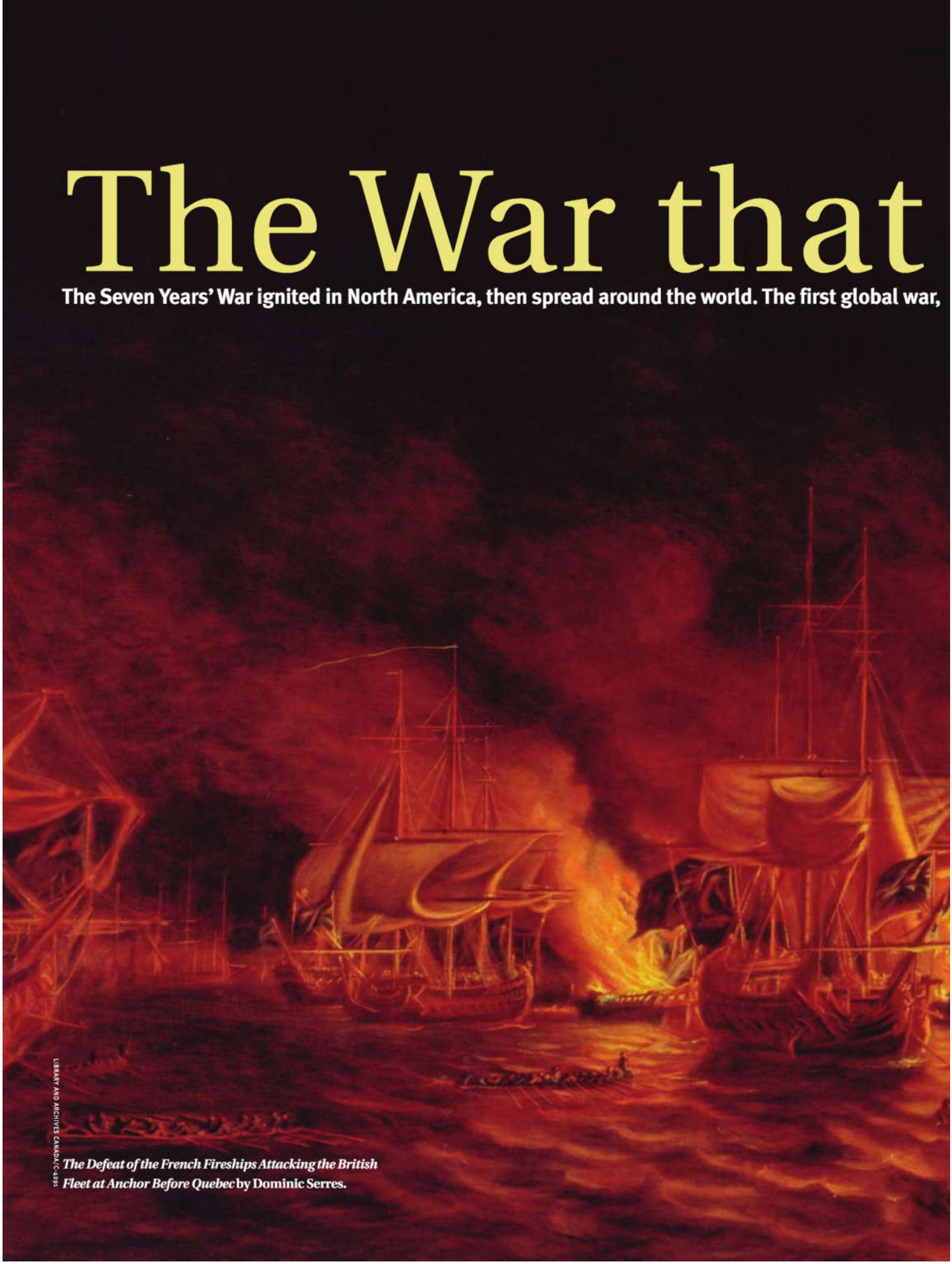


$19.95 *(incl. tax, shipping & handling)* Visa and MasterCard accepted
Send cheque or money order to: Coast Country Productions
23056 - 118th Avenue, Maple Ridge, BC V2X 2M8

dbcoastcountry@shaw.ca www.daveebaker.com (604) 466-1726

The War that

The Seven Years' War ignited in North America, then spread around the world. The first global war,

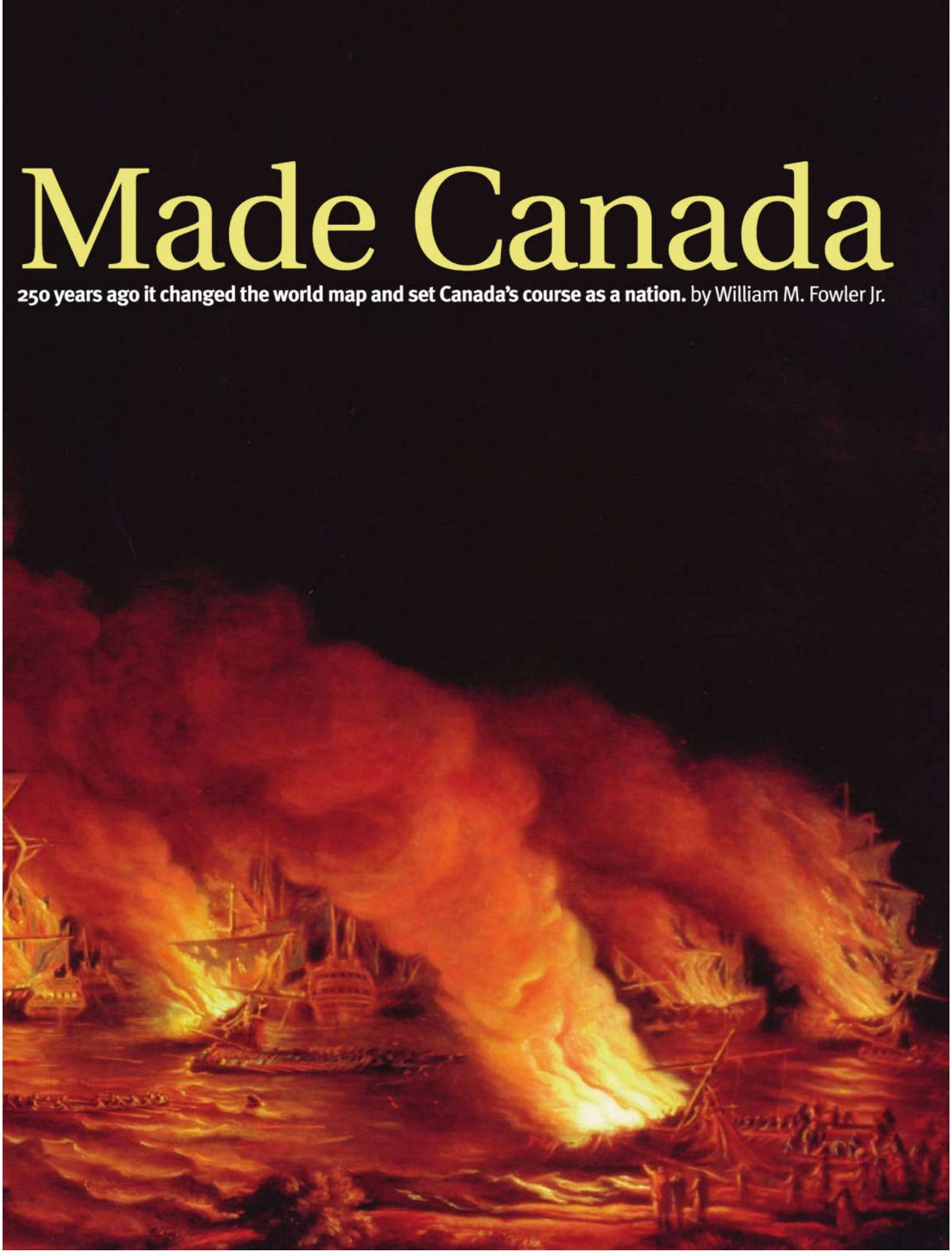


LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA/C-4391

The Defeat of the French Fireships Attacking the British Fleet at Anchor Before Quebec by Dominic Serres.

Made Canada

250 years ago it changed the world map and set Canada's course as a nation. by William M. Fowler Jr.



By the mid-eighteenth century, both England and France had firm footholds in North America. English settlement was ensconced along the Atlantic Coast from Maine to Georgia, and tendrils of settlement were creeping farther west, particularly in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the Carolinas. The white population of these colonies numbered nearly one million – mostly farmers – and nearly all were English-speaking Protestants.

Canada was colonized differently. Although the French king claimed a vast territory stretching from the Arctic Circle to the Gulf of Mexico and from the Appalachians across the Mississippi, for the most part the French confined themselves to the valley of the St. Lawrence River between Quebec and Montreal, and scattered outposts along the river system south to New Orleans. Altogether, not more than sixty thousand French lived in this territory. From the

COURTESY OF FORT TICONDEROGA

Portrait of Louis-Joseph, the Marquis de Montcalm, French commander in North America, 1756–1759. After leading French forces in victories at Oswego (1756), Fort William Henry (1757), and Carillon (1758), Montcalm was mortally wounded at the battle of Quebec on September 13, 1759.

settled parts of New France, fragile links maintained by peripatetic priests, soldiers, and fur traders extended deep into the interior of North America. Connected by rivers and lakes, and anchored by forts and trading posts such as Niagara, Detroit, and Michilimackinac in the West and Presque Isle, Le Boeuf, and Venango in the Ohio River Valley, the French sought to control the fur trade and dominate the native peoples (see sidebar, page 22).

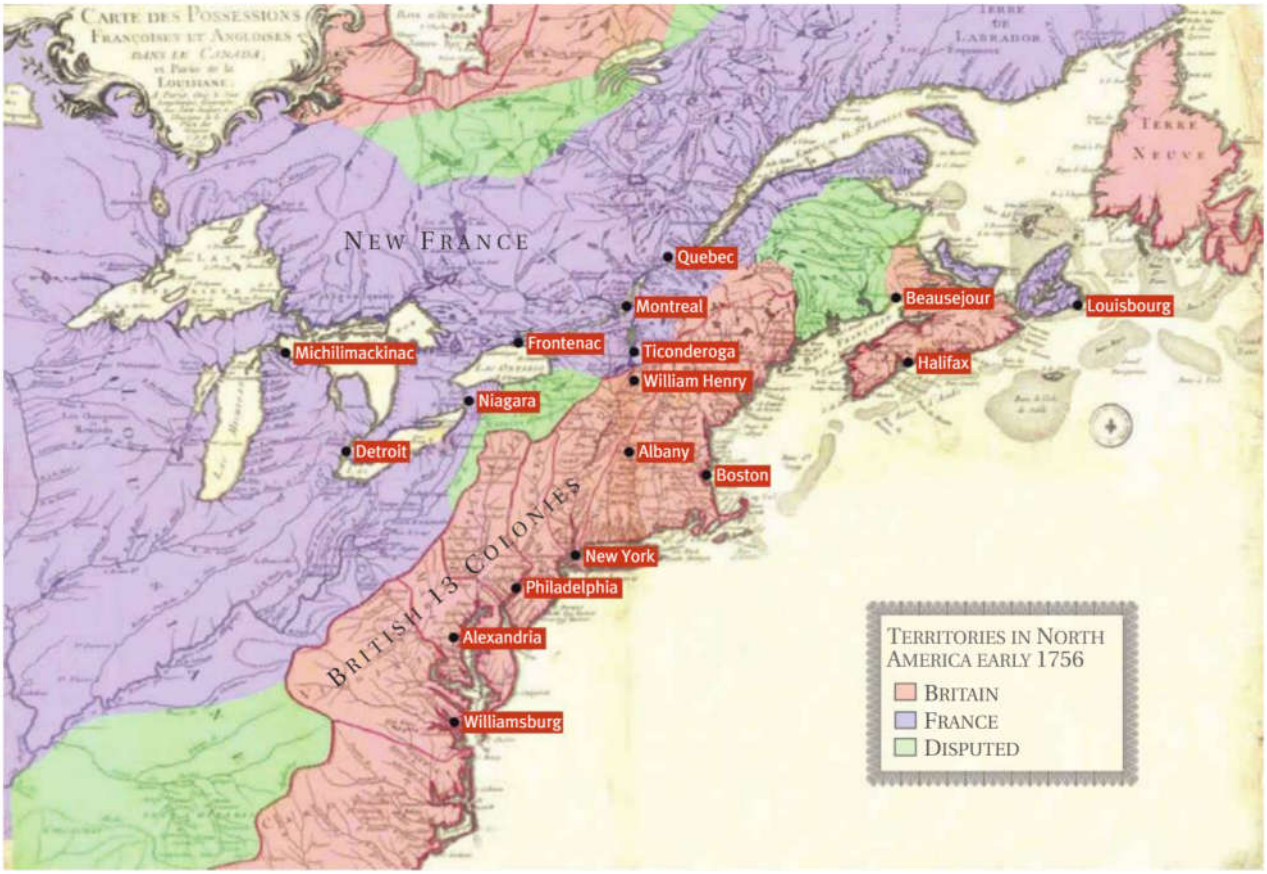
French authority was strong at the centre but weak at the edges. It was precisely along those rough edges – in Acadia, along Lake Ontario, and in the Ohio Valley – where trouble brewed. Along these margins native nations stood between two poles: French and English. Depending upon shifting circumstances, and often following their own self-interest, native peoples allied with one of the two European rivals. In times of declared war, such alliances were open as regular soldiers and colonial militia accompanied native war parties on raids into the enemy's homeland. But once the declared war ended – an event usually marked by diplomatic folderol in European capitals, a trading of territory, regulars sailing home, or the return of French and English settlers to their towns and villages – native allies who were parties to the war, but not to the peace, continued to be exploited. Colonial powers used them as surrogates to visit instability and violence on the frontier.

Nowhere was peace more fragile than west of the Appalachians in the valley of the Ohio River. In 1749, land-hungry Virginians, believing that the areas should be open to both sides for trade, formed the Ohio Company and secured a charter from King George II of Britain giving them ownership of large tracts of land. Their charter conflicted with French claims. Authorities in Montreal and Quebec watched with growing concern. An English presence in the west threatened the fur trade and promised to drive a wedge into the communication route between Canada and Louisiana. In response to the English advance, the French established three posts to secure the Ohio River Valley in 1753: Forts Presque Isle, Le Boeuf, and Machault.

Robert Dinwiddie, the lieutenant governor of colonial Virginia and a heavy investor in the Ohio Company, was alarmed at the reports of French activities in the Ohio River Valley. In his estimation, these accounts signalled a move by the French that threatened to outflank the colonies of British North America (which would also imperil his own land investments). Dinwiddie wasted no time. In the midwinter of 1753–1754, he sent an eight-man expedition, led by twenty-one-year-old George Washington, to Fort Le Boeuf with the mandate of warning the French to withdraw. Washington, a young militia officer and a fellow stockholder in the Ohio Company, proceeded immediately to convey Dinwiddie's ultimatum, which indicated to both the British and the French that they should occupy the territory as quickly as possible.

In the spring of the following year, Washington led 132 Virginian provincial soldiers toward the forks of the Ohio River, where the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers meet (the location of present-day Pittsburgh). They started building a fort, but the French drove them away, building a larger fort on the site and calling it Fort Duquesne. This was seen as tantamount to an act of war.

The Virginians built a small, log palisade with trenches at Great Meadows and christened it Fort Necessity. On the evening of May 27, as Washington and his officers pondered their next move, a native scout burst into camp to announce that a French party was nearby. Washington, fearing that the French planned to attack, warned the camp to stand alert and then left with a small party to search out the French. He and his men tumbled single file into what



Washington called "a night as dark as pitch." After an all-night march they came to a small glen, early in the morning of May 28. As they circled along the top of the depression, below they could see the French camp where the soldiers were just stirring from sleep. Without provocation or warning, Washington's men opened fire. The French went for their weapons, but it was too late. Within minutes the battle was over. Ten French soldiers were dead and twenty-one were taken prisoners. Washington lost one man.

Washington returned to Fort Necessity to await reinforcements from Dinwiddie. In the meantime, the French at Fort Duquesne prepared their counterattack. On July 3, a large French force broke through the woods facing Fort Necessity. As they advanced across the field, Washington ordered his men to fall back into prepared positions. Not wishing to risk a frontal assault against a covered enemy, the French withdrew and for ten hours kept up a steady fire against Fort Necessity. Finally, after some resistance, the Virginians surrendered.

News of the battles reverberated through the corridors of Whitehall and Versailles. London's most famous gossip, Horace Walpole, pronounced that Washington had "set the world on fire." Indeed he had, for the spark he struck flew into a pile of dry tinder that had been accumulating for generations.

In reaction to the French challenge, the British ministry ordered General Edward Braddock to Fort Duquesne. Braddock's orders were to secure the king's rights in North America, which included not only the valley of the Ohio River, but also lands along Lake Ontario and Acadia. Well aware of British actions, the French were quick to respond and they, too, dispatched forces. The French managed to hold onto the fort early in the war, turning back the expedition led by General Edward Braddock. (A smaller attack in September 1758 was also kept at bay, and the English endured heavy losses. Finally, on November 25, General John Forbes captured the site, though the French had destroyed Fort Duquesne the day before).

The crisis in North America was escalating.

Frederick II, King of Prussia, watched the drama in North America with interest. His nation's chief industry was war, and he saw an opportunity in the worsening crisis between France and England. Frederick ached to strike at his old adversary Austria but knew that France would be an ally if summoned to come to Austria's aid. Frederick realized he, too, needed an ally to balance the threat. He found one in England. When the childless Queen Anne died in 1714, Parliament acted to ensure a Protestant succession by inviting surviving relative George the Elector of Hanover (a small north German state) to take the throne. George accepted the invitation, making him and his successors kings of England and Electors of Hanover simultaneously. Inevitably, this dynastic entanglement drew England into German politics. Surrounded by rapacious neighbours, Hanover looked to England for

By the end of the Seven Years' War in 1763, Britain held all of France's lands east of the Mississippi River, including Quebec, Cape Breton, and the Ohio Valley. France retained tiny islands St. Pierre and Miquelon. From Newfoundland south to Florida, Britain held sway over the Atlantic seaboard. Everything purple and green on the map had turned pink.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE DU QUÉBEC

protection. England's enemy was France, and France's enemy was Prussia, so an alliance between England and Prussia served to protect Hanover and gave Frederick an ally against France.

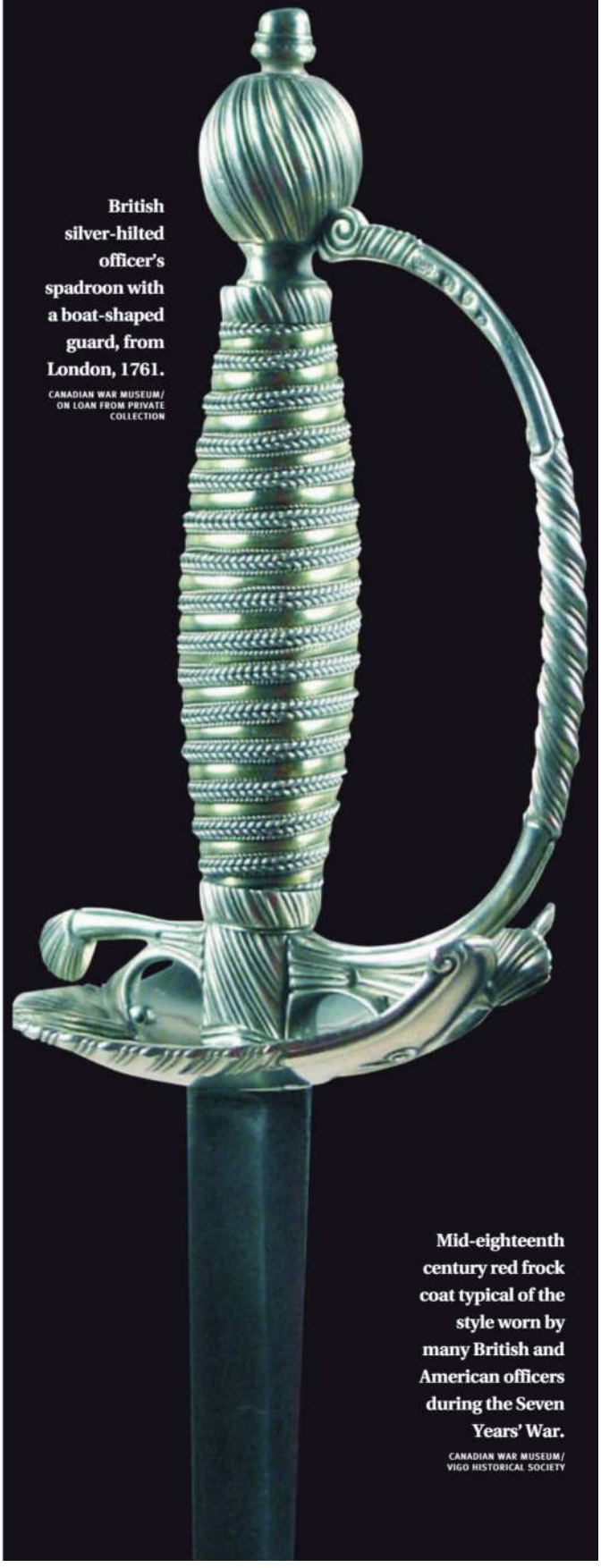
While diplomats scurried across Europe lining up allies for the expected war, an undeclared war was expanding in North America. Braddock's march toward Fort Duquesne had been unsuccessful, as his army encountered a mixed force of French Canadians and natives. Braddock fell, along with hundreds of his soldiers, whose bodies and equipment littered the road. The British fared little better to the north where they failed to even reach Lake Ontario or advance beyond the southern end of Lake George. From the Carolinas to northern New York, violence flared as native warring factions – allies of the French – descended on frontier settlements.

As the war swelled in North America, it spilled over to other parts of the world. On May 18, 1756, the pretence of peace was thrown aside. England declared war on France, and the French reciprocated. The war was official. In India, French and British trading companies had been vying for influence over native princes. In June 1756, with French connivance, Suraj ud Dowla captured Calcutta and threw 146 English prisoners into what was known as the "black hole," a tiny room in which prisoners were crammed, resulting in mass suffocation. Then, in August, Frederick invaded Saxony. At sea, the Royal Navy, with scant regard for international law, seized French ships. At Toulon, the French navy made ready to descend upon British held Minorca. The war reverberated across the globe.

"A few acres of snow" was the way Voltaire described Canada. Most Frenchmen agreed. Canada was distant and unprofitable. For France, this struggle was about the domination of Europe. With a population that dwarfed England's and an army that was many times the size of her opponents, France was convinced that victory belonged to her. In this calculation, Canada was unimportant and so deserved scant attention. Out of an army that easily numbered more than 400,000 men, all that the ministry of war would spare for service in Canada was six regiments and a commander, Louis-Joseph, the Marquis de Montcalm.

In the midst of a grand war in Europe, where glory and rank could be secured, Montcalm journeyed to Canada reluctantly. He disliked the country and the Canadians. He described the governor general, Marquis de Vaudreuil, a native-born Canadian, as "a good man but weak." He had even harsher words for the officers around the governor general. "Mercier is a weakling and an ignoramus, Saint-Luc a garrulous braggart, Montigny admirable, but a looter, Villiers and Lery good, Langy excellent, Marin brave but stupid; the rest are not worth mentioning." Montcalm's relationship with Vaudreuil and the Canadian officers began poorly and grew worse. Nor did the French commander place much faith in his native allies, whose style of war ran counter to his European view of war. Caught between two imperial powers, neither of which wished

Artifacts from



British silver-hilted officer's spadroon with a boat-shaped guard, from London, 1761.

CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM/ ON LOAN FROM PRIVATE COLLECTION

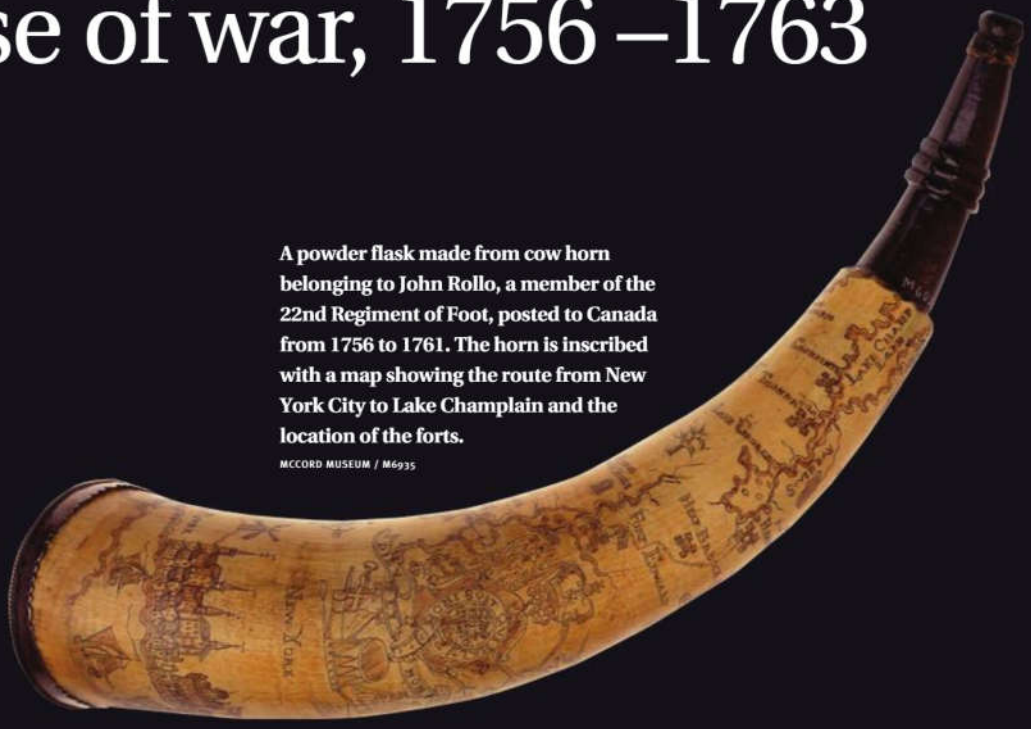
Mid-eighteenth century red frock coat typical of the style worn by many British and American officers during the Seven Years' War.

CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM/ VIGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

the course of war, 1756 –1763

This silver medal is the first American military decoration. It commemorates a September 8, 1756, attack by Pennsylvania provincial soldiers on the Delaware town of Kittanning, not far from Fort Duquesne.

CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM/ VIRGINIA AND HUGH MERCER APOTHECARY SHOP



A powder flask made from cow horn belonging to John Rollo, a member of the 22nd Regiment of Foot, posted to Canada from 1756 to 1761. The horn is inscribed with a map showing the route from New York City to Lake Champlain and the location of the forts.

MCCORD MUSEUM / M6935

A cup belonging to Louis-Joseph, Marquis de Montcalm, and used during his time in Quebec.

MCCORD MUSEUM / M4839

This British ceramic punch bowl (circa 1759) bears the patriotic inscription "Success to genl [sic] Wolfe."

CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM/ HISTORIC DEERFIELD

Alienated Allies

It was in the interests of the native peoples that neither the French nor the English should win during the Seven Years' War. Since the earliest days of European settlement in both British North America and French Canada, the relationship between native peoples and newcomers was fraught with uncertainty. Initially, the groups came upon one another with curiosity, but then deceptive acts gave rise to suspicion and, eventually, violence. Whether it was dealing with the French or the English, the process of encounter for native peoples drew them down an unstable path. It fostered increasing dependence upon Europeans with whom they traded furs and ancestral lands for manufactured goods.

COURTESY OF ROBERT CONNELL

Artistic rendering of eighteenth-century Oneida leader Scarouyady. This portrait is based on a physical description and sketch by Lieutenant Colonel Robert Orme, aide-de-camp to British general Edward Braddock. Scarouyady was one of a small number of pro-British native peoples who fought with George Washington at Jumonville Glen, as well as at Braddock's defeat.

Sensing their downward economic spiral, native peoples sought to bargain between their French and English patrons for a better fate. In wartime, they bartered their services as warriors, but rather than following the European protocols of long-term alliances, they negotiated to participate only in a particular battle or campaign. French and English officers complained bitterly that their native allies were unreliable. They were, according to the Europeans, invisible in defeat and intolerable in victory. In fact, natives were not allies in the traditional European sense at all. They were fighting a "parallel war" based upon their own objectives. As one Abenaki explained to a French missionary, "I make war for plunder, scalps, and prisoners. You content yourself with a fort." Native peoples of North America understood the principle formulated a century later by Lord Palmerston: "Nations have permanent interests, not permanent friends."

Along the western edge of Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York, both the French and British worked actively to bring native warriors to their side. Although numerous tribes lived or travelled through this region, including the Cherokee, Delaware, and Shawnee, the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederation held sway. Concentrated along the Mohawk River Valley from the Hudson River to Lake Ontario, this Confederation was the most powerful native group in North America. The Iroquois viewed the tribes of the Ohio Valley as their vassals. Their "vassals," however, often chose to follow their own self-interest, and during the course of the war, they often changed allegiances.

As for the Iroquois, despite their great power, they were vulnerable. For generations, their geographical location – sitting astride a major east–west link and living between the French and British – availed considerable diplomatic and military advantages. Iroquois leaders were adept at playing one great power against the other. That strategy worked as long as the two powers were equal contenders, but as French power waned, the Iroquois found their leverage greatly reduced. Rising British power, coupled with the considerable influence of the King's Superintendent of Indian Affairs William Johnson (known to the Iroquois as Warraghiygey, "He Who Does Great Business"), kept most of the New York Iroquois within the British sphere of influence. However, a sizeable contingent of Christianized Iroquois, mainly Mohawks, along with smaller groups of Abenaki and Huron lived in the valley of the St. Lawrence. These groups were fiercely loyal to the French.

Far to the west were the nations of the "high country." Within the nominal jurisdiction of the French, these were the groups of the distant Great Lakes, including Ottawa, Pottawattamie, Sauk, Fox, and others. When properly cajoled through gifts and the promise of spoils, they trekked east to assist the French, but they arrived and left on their own schedule and fought on their own terms.

British victory marked a sad day for the native peoples of North America. No longer could they bargain between two contending powers. Their fate was now entirely in the hands of one government, and any attempt by the king and his ministers to protect their new native subjects ran directly counter to the interests of settlers, particularly those who lived in the thirteen colonies, who distained native culture and sought native lands.

–William M. Fowler Jr.

SEVEN YEARS' WAR 1756

May 17. Formal declaration of war between France and Britain

them well, natives fought their own parallel war, granting or withholding assistance as their own interests dictated.

Despite overwhelming obstacles, Montcalm commanded well. In August 1756, he took Fort Oswego on Lake Ontario, and the following year, he captured Fort William Henry on Lake George. In both instances, Montcalm had managed to move a sizeable force of troops, along with a train of supplies including heavy cannon, through a wilderness without being detected by the enemy.

In Europe, affairs went equally awry for the British. The Austrians drubbed Frederick at Kolin, and King George's son, the Duke of Cumberland, signed a humiliating armistice at Hastenbeck, Germany. The only bright spot was Robert Clive's spectacular successes in India, as he established military supremacy of the East India Company in Southern India and Bengal.

Nearly every major European power joined the fray. Frederick II, King of Prussia, conducted masterful campaigns in Europe fending off France, Austria, and Russia. His victories, however, came at a high cost. Prussia's army was the best in Europe, but it was hardly the largest, and Frederick's manpower reservoir was drained by every battle. He pleaded with his English allies for ships, men, and money. British prime minister William Pitt sent dollops of the first two and large quantities of the latter. Pitt's vision was global. Working closely with George Anson, first lord of the admiralty, and Sir John Ligonier, commander in chief of the army, Pitt developed a grand plan that melded a powerful navy with a small army.

The first task was to keep control of England's home waters to thwart the threat of invasion. This might be accomplished by either blockade or by destroying the enemy at sea. On the European continent, Pitt's goal was to support Frederick to the extent that the Prussian army could protect Hanover and tie up large numbers of French soldiers to keep them from being deployed overseas. By containing the French navy and keeping enemy troops occupied in Europe, Pitt hoped to give free reign to his most powerful weapon – the Royal Navy. If Anson's ships could control the sea routes, then Ligonier's army regiments could be transported and supported across the oceans to sweep up the enemy's colonies. Anson's navy squadrons and Ligonier's army regiments worked together with remarkable synergy. For political as well as strategic reasons, Canada was at the heart of this global enterprise.

As the victories at Forts Oswego and William Henry demonstrated, the French could hit hard and fast. Their mobility and centralized command structure served them well, and despite limited resources, Montcalm had thus far been able to keep his enemy off balance. But these bright spots masked Montcalm's fundamental weaknesses: too much territory and too few resources. The British, on the other hand, had their own difficulties, principally a divided command structure. Braddock (and his successors) was titled "commander in chief," ostensibly meaning that they could command support (men, money, supplies) from the governors and assemblies of the thirteen colonies. That assumption quickly fell apart when the commanders found themselves confronting fractious assemblies, undisciplined militia, and seemingly powerless governors. William Pitt's response was to ease colonial feelings by providing them with large amounts of cash. Once the colonials understood that Pitt offered financial support, and that they would not be saddled with the expenses of war, they proved far more congenial.

Coupled with his keen sense of strategy and politics, Pitt also enjoyed a fine eye for talent. He selected General Jeffrey Amherst to command the British assault on Louisbourg.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA/C003916

British general James Wolfe was born in Westerham, England, and joined the army at the age of fourteen. In 1757, William Pitt made Wolfe second-in-command under North American British commander, General Jeffrey Amherst. After Wolfe captured Louisbourg in 1758, he became major general and put in charge of the British army and navy in Quebec.

On the forbidding eastern shore of Cape Breton Island, the walls of Louisbourg stood guard over French interests in the nearby fishing grounds, offering a view of the approaches to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Long a haven for illicit trade and a base for French privateering, the fortress had actually been taken by New England forces in 1745, but was then returned by the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748. For the British, success in Canada depended upon seizing control of the St. Lawrence Valley, which could be approached from three directions: from the south via Lake Ontario, from the east via the Champlain Valley and Richelieu River, and from the north via the St. Lawrence River itself. Given the vast naval supremacy of the British, the river approach was the most promising. First, however, to protect their flank and rear, Louisbourg had to be seized.

James Wolfe was among the officers Amherst selected to join him in the Louisbourg expedition. With the metic-

August 14. Fort Oswego (on Lake Ontario) captured by the French under Montcalm

1757

August 9. Led by Montcalm, Fort William Henry (on Lake George) is taken by the French

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA/C13255

A Pitt (Bull) in War

William Pitt, Earl of Chatham (1708–1778), entered parliament in 1735. Though not from aristocracy, he made a name for himself while paymaster-general, a post that carried cabinet status. However, his criticism of his government's war policy led to his dismissal. In 1754, he met and married Hester Grenville, younger by twenty-three years, and they had three sons and two daughters. In 1756, Pitt formed a government with George Grenville and the Duke of Devonshire. Disagreements again led to his dismissal; however, he was recalled months later to form a coalition government with the Duke of Newcastle.

When the Seven Years' War broke out in 1756, Pitt was secretary of state, in command of war strategy and foreign affairs. He viewed North America as pivotal to the creation of a great empire and controlled the war effort almost single-handedly. Though Britain suffered a number of setbacks during the first years of the war, toward the end of 1758, the army began to successfully oppose French control of Canada. This includes the capture of Fort Duquesne, which was renamed Pittsburgh. Pitt was very effective as a wartime prime minister, and his policies led to victory over the French in India, North America, and on the seas. Still, when Quebec surrendered in 1759, Pitt did not stop to catch his breath. Instead, he urged the British government to reinforce Britain's advantage by declaring war on Spain. The new king, George III, and his advisers, particularly Lord Bute, denied his plan, as they were reluctant to extend the war. Pitt resigned in 1761.

William Pitt spent the next five years criticizing the government, denouncing British treatment of the American colonies, and fighting for parliamentary reform. In 1766, Pitt led another coalition government but was not successful in his second term as prime minister. His most loyal ministers resigned, and he followed suit in 1768. He remained in the political arena and continued to denounce British policy in the colonies. He died in 1778.

ulous planning that characterized his command style, Amherst landed on Cape Breton in June 1758 and laid siege. He arrived at Gabarus Bay near Louisbourg on June 2. As is usual along this rugged coast, rain, fog, and running surf made it impossible to immediately approach land. For five days, the British ships tugged on their anchor cables in the bay. Finally, the weather abated, and on June 7, against weak French resistance, Amherst's army landed on a beachhead. Once onshore, the battle turned into a full siege, with the French finally surrendering after more than three weeks of fighting. The British had captured Louisbourg, and their victory effectively cut off French reinforcements. Unfortunately, by the time the French surrendered, it was too late in the season for Amherst to proceed up the St. Lawrence River.

During the Louisbourg campaign, Wolfe had distinguished himself as a superb commander. In this young man, William Pitt recognized the qualities of the officer he wanted to command the most important expedition of the war – the assault on Quebec. Pitt's plan for 1759 was two-pronged. He ordered Wolfe to gather forces at Halifax and to proceed around the Gaspé Peninsula and up the St. Lawrence. At the same time, Pitt expected Amherst to move his army north along the Lake Champlain–Richelieu River route and take Montreal. Then, he was to join Wolfe at Quebec.

Unfortunately for Wolfe, Amherst's army stalled on its northward advance, leaving Wolfe's forces alone to wage war on Quebec. Though both Wolfe and Montcalm were fatally wounded in the battle, the climactic ending and British victory on the Plains of Abraham sealed the fate of Quebec, but it did not end the war. After enduring a bitter winter occupying Quebec, the British faced a French counterattack in the spring. In a move reminiscent of Montcalm's fateful decision to meet Wolfe on the Plains of Abraham, the British commander James Murray ordered his troops to leave the city and advance on the enemy. They met at Sillery Woods (St. Foy), and this time, the French were victorious. For the French, however, the victory was meaningless – only a few days following the battle, ships of the Royal Navy arrived bringing supplies and reinforcements. There was no choice but to retreat to Montreal for a last stand. Murray followed them. At the same time, Amherst, who had finally managed to move his command farther west, advanced down the St. Lawrence River from Lake Ontario. Simultaneously, a third force under William Haviland closed in from the direction of Lake Champlain. Caught in the tightening vise, Montreal surrendered to the British on September 8, 1760.

Although the fall of Montreal marked the effective end of the war in North America, the struggle continued in other parts of the world. In the West Indies, where the

1758 **July 26.** The French fortress of Louisbourg surrenders to the British after a seven-week siege

1759 **September 13.** The Battle of the Plains of Abraham begins **September 17.** Quebec surrenders to the British

French and English had long competed for the rich sugar islands, the British captured Guadeloupe in 1759. Three years later, they capped their campaign in the West Indies by taking Martinique and Havana, while a joint expedition launched from India took Manila.

In fact, the genius of British success overseas rested in their ability to conduct joint expeditions. As long as the admirals controlled the sea routes, the generals could land and manoeuvre their regiments confident that their logistical support was secure and that the enemy was isolated from any hope of relief or reinforcement.

What worked so well overseas had less relevance in the European arena. Instead, army size mattered, and as the war dragged on, Frederick's ability to fend off his neighbours declined as his army shrank. Despite the stress, Frederick's army still considerable bite, and while Prussia's enemies had enjoyed some victories, they were under no illusions about the huge cost of continuing the struggle. In England, weariness crept in as well. Burdened by a rising national debt, the new King George III and his chief advisor, Lord Bute, were anxious to end the war. After engineering the overthrow of William Pitt, who would never be content with anything less than the total humiliation of the French, they sent peace scouts to France. Negotiations began in Paris, and in February 1763, diplomats assembled to end the war.

North America was at the centre of the Treaty of Paris of 1763. Neither the French nor the English desired a return to the bitter and incessant border warfare that had characterized their joint occupation of the continent. Preferring to keep Guadalupe, France gave Britain New France and surrendered all of its claims to the territory east of the Mississippi River, except "the town of New Orleans" and the islands of Saint Pierre and Miquelon. In West Africa, England was keen to secure her position in the slave trade by retaining Fort St. Louis at the mouth of the Senegal River. Havana and Manila were returned to Spain, while in India, England emerged as the dominant power. The war ended on a particularly sour note in Europe. No one triumphed. Austria got nothing and France restored "all the countries belonging to the electorate of Hanover." France was also forced to dismantle the fortress at Dunkirk and return Minorca to England. Prussia kept Silesia, bathing in the glory of victories against the mass European armies.

England stood triumphant. It had battled against heavy odds to emerge with a global empire from which the nation would draw the wealth and resources to fuel the industrial revolution. In North America, the empire laid the foundation for two great nations to emerge.

William M. Fowler Jr. is the author of *Empires at War: The Seven Years' War and the Struggle for North America, 1754–1756*, published by Douglas & McIntyre, 2005.

Et Cetera

Crucible of War: The Seven Years' War and the Fate of Empire in North America by Fred Anderson. Alfred Knopf, New York, 2000.

Clash of Empires: The War that Made Canada, 1754–1763, a major joint Canadian-American exhibition, is on view at the Canadian War Museum, Ottawa, until November 12.

In *The Beaver*: "With Wolfe at Quebec: Who Fought on the Plains of Abraham?" by Ian McCulloch. April/May 1992. "Montcalm at Quebec, 1759: 'But the King Must be Obeyed'" by Ian McCulloch. October/November 1992. Back issues available through TheBeaver.ca.

You Should Go: Seven Years' War Sites

For those interested in visiting some of the locations where battles and events related to the Seven Years' War took place, be sure to include the following Canadian sites on your travel itinerary:

Battle of the Restigouche, Gaspé, Quebec
Scene of the last naval engagement between France and Britain, this interpretive site is located west of Point à la Croix, off Route 132 in Gaspé. It's open seven days a week between June and October.

Fortress of Louisbourg, Nova Scotia
To view the largest reconstructed eighteenth-century French fortified town in North America, take the Canso Causeway onto Cape Breton Island. From Highway 125, turn off on Route 22 to Louisbourg. The fortress is closed between November and May.

Port-la-Joye–Fort Amherst National Historic Site, Prince Edward Island
Destroyed by the British, this site commemorates the first permanent European settlement on PEI. Located on Route 19, west of Charlottetown, the grounds are open daily from mid-June to late August.

Plains of Abraham, Quebec City
The scene of the 1759 Conquest, this historic site is unique for its sheer size, historical role, and beauty. The Battlefields Park was developed to honour the memory of both French and British combatants. Open throughout the year.

1760 **September 9.** Montreal surrenders to the British

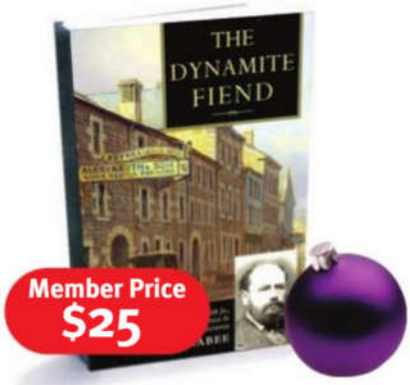
1763 **February 10.** Treaty of Paris formally ends the war; France surrenders all North American territories except New Orleans

HistorySociety.ca General Store

For a complete inventory of history books, videos and other items visit our online store or call 1-800-816-6777 toll free for a print listing.

Pierre Berton Award Winner

Reluctant Genius: The Passionate Life and Inventive Mind of Alexander Graham Bell
by Charlotte Gray
Giant of the golden age of invention, Bell revolutionized the modern world with his inventions. This historical reassessment delves into the private life that supported his genius.
468 pp., illustrations (Hardcover)
Publisher List Price: $38.95



Biography

The Dynamite Fiend
by Ann Larabee
Scion of the respected Halifax brewing family, Alexander "Sandy" Keith was a devious criminal who became a mass murderer after dynamiting a German dock in 1875. A skillful and fascinating portrait of a Victorian terrorist that resonates with today's global concerns.
234 pp., bibliography, photos, index. (Hardcover)
Publisher List Price: $29.95

Youth

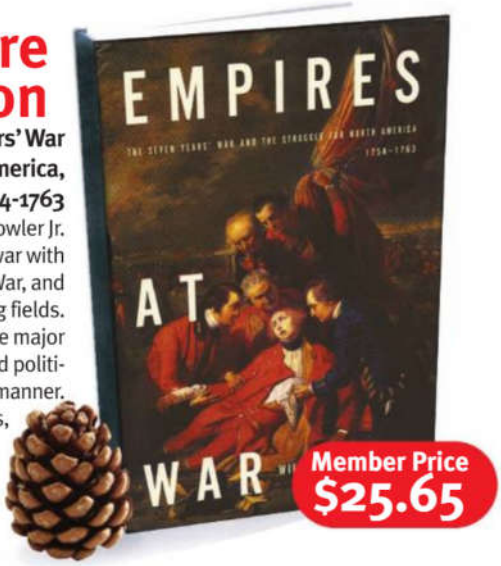
The Red Sash
written by Jean E. Pendziwol; illustrated by Nicolas Debon
As the Fort William rendezvous draws near, a young Métis boy helps prepare for a feast. While snaring hares, a vicious storm breaks out, and he sights canoes in danger as they paddle for land.
32 pp., illustrations, map. (Hardcover) Ages 8 – 12
Publisher List Price: $16.95

Publisher's Pick

Private Demons: The Tragic Personal Life of John A. Macdonald
by Patricia Phenix
The first book to expose the turbulent personal life of this fascinating Father of Confederation through family journals, diaries, and never-before-seen letters.
320 pp., illustrations, index. (Hardcover)
Publisher List Price: $34.99

Feature Selection

Empires at War: The Seven Years' War and the Struggle for North America, 1754-1763
by William M. Fowler Jr.
1754 ushered in the first global war with the advent of the Seven Years' War, and New France was one of its playing fields. The drama of the battles, the major players, and the global military and political contexts are narrated in a lively manner.
332 pp., biographical sketches, maps, photos, illustrations, index. (Hardcover)
Publisher List Price: $37.95

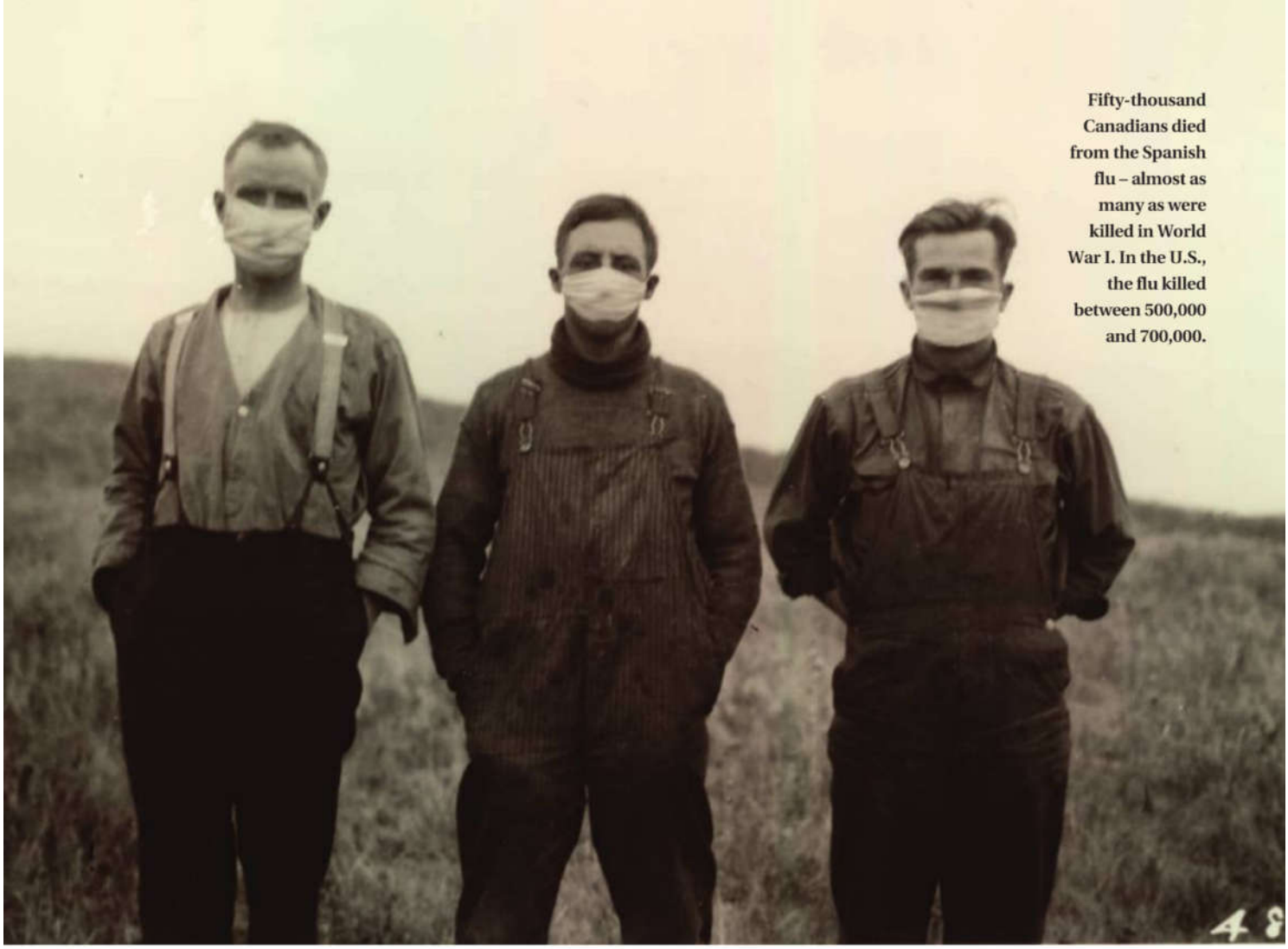


HOW TO ORDER HistorySociety.ca 1-800-816-6777

The General Store is a member benefit of Canada's National History Society, publisher of *The Beaver: Canada's History Magazine* and *Kayak: Canada's History Magazine for Kids*. Subscribe and receive this value-added benefit, too!

Shipping and handling: In Canada: $10 for one book, $15 for two or more. U.S.: $12/$15, Foreign: $20
6% GST added to Canadian orders

NEW ! History Society members are now eligible for a 10% discount on all National Film Board titles. Available online only. Go to the General Store and click on the NFB link.



Fifty-thousand Canadians died from the Spanish flu – almost as many as were killed in World War I. In the U.S., the flu killed between 500,000 and 700,000.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA/PA-025025

Killer Flu

Having barely survived the trenches of World War I, returning Canadian soldiers – and the public at large – were greeted with a horror of a different ilk: the Spanish Flu. Weapons were no defence. by Susan Goldenberg

Bringing the country to a near standstill, a killer flu rampaged across Canada in autumn 1918. Schools, churches, and places of entertainment shut down, business was disrupted, and doctors overwhelmed. At its peak, the flu was so deadly that undertakers and gravediggers could not keep up, and there weren't enough hearses: caskets were conveyed to cemeteries in passenger automobiles and delivery wagons.

Each death had its tragic tale. Arthur Barton, of Brandon, Manitoba, who joined the army at the age of twenty-four, died on November 5, 1918, just days before the war ended and not long after returning home. Lieutenant Harry Helliwell of Edmonton got the flu while recruiting dogs in northern Alberta. His wife contracted the illness while nursing flu patients and died a short time earlier. Helliwell was not informed of her death and likely wondered why she was not at his bedside as he died. Flu victim Donald William of St. Thomas, Ontario, was described by *Canadian Press* as "one of the most brilliant young barristers of the era, being one of the youngest law-

A group photograph of employees from the Canadian Bank of Commerce in Calgary during the Spanish flu epidemic. Wearing masks in public was made compulsory by the Alberta government on October 25, 1918. Coughing, sneezing, and spitting in public became finable offences in Regina.

yers in the history of Canada to attain his qualifications, only twenty-one years of age at the time." Mr. and Mrs. Quinn of Montreal and their newborn baby died on the same day, leaving a fourteen-month-old as the family's sole survivor.

Although the 1918 flu originated in China, it was called the Spanish flu because it was first officially recognized as a disease in Spain. History's most lethal flu, it killed an estimated fifty million (there are no precise figures). It was one of history's worst pandemics. (An epidemic is the occurrence of a disease in excess of its expected rate; a pandemic is an epidemic that occurs over a large geographical area, usually considered to be in many different parts of the world.)

Out of Canada's population of eight million, fifty thousand died from the flu, an enormous death toll in just a few months. In contrast, sixty-thousand Canadians died in the four years of World War I. The Public Health Agency of Canada states the country's usual death toll from flu is between four and eight thousand. "Flu kills in many ways, most commonly by causing pneumonia with or without a large immune response that can lead to leaking of fluid, and sometimes blood, from the body into the lungs," explains Dr. Isra Levy, director of the Office for Public Health at the Canadian Medical Association and an expert in epidemiology, disease control, and community medicine. "A person dies from overwhelming infection or from inadequate oxygenation of the blood."

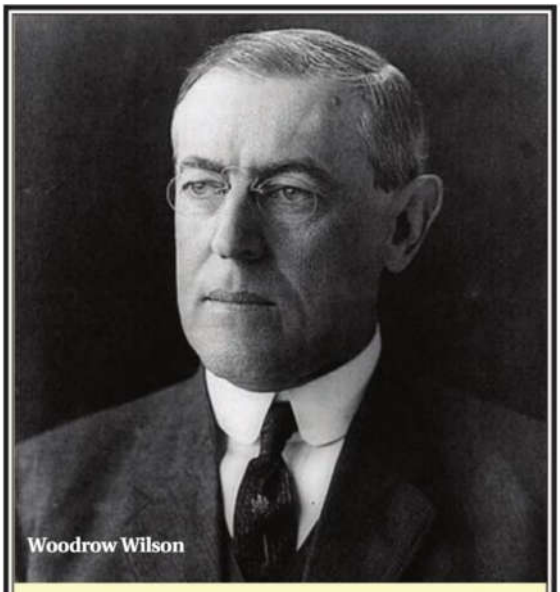
Examining how Canada grappled with the Spanish flu provides guidance when facing the threat of another global flu attack. The Public Health Agency states that a flu pandemic is "inevitable," if not from the bird flu, then another strain. With a global population of 6.5 billion – over three times the 1.8 billion of 1918 – a comparable pandemic would be devastating.

"History repeats itself if we don't learn from experience," Dr. Levy points out. "In many respects, we learned the same things from SARS in 2003, as from the 1918 response." SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) killed eight hundred people worldwide. Reaction to SARS was swift. The World Health Organization issued a travel advisory against Toronto, a hot spot. "From both [cases] we learned that it is difficult to make diagnoses in non-specific situations," Levy says. "It takes a few days to know whether a person has a bad cold or a true flu virus that requires more care and can lead to death. Both times the lesson was learned that to prevent panic it is critically important to provide clear, solid communication so people know in real time what is going on." In 1918, as in 2003, it was learned that quarantine is not always feasible or effective because of the resulting stigmatization and the economic damage that results (in the case of SARS, Toronto's tourism business was badly hurt). Planning needs to be tailored to the local response.

Levy notes one major change from 1918 – disease spreads much faster with today's jet travel. The Spanish flu originated in China in February 1918 but did not reach Canada until September of that year. Levy warns, "Today, the rapidity of travel is quite phenomenal, exacerbating the situation. Despite scientific and medical advances, flu remains a bad disease. It takes time to develop vaccines for each strain, and not all antiviral medications are effective for every flu. Flu remains a scourge of modern civilization."

The Spanish flu developed from regular flu symptoms of headache, chills, cough, fever, and muscle ache into a vicious illness that could kill within twenty-four hours. The most vulnerable were twenty- to forty-year-olds, not children and the elderly, flu's usual victims. "No one knows why some flus disproportionately affect more people in some age groups than others," Dr. Levy says. "The 1918 flu virus seemed to cause a massive immune reaction that led to respiratory distress syndrome in previously healthy people. Many of them succumbed to hemorrhagic pulmonary oedema [bloody fluid in the lungs]."

Dr. E.A. Robertson, a doctor at the Quebec City Garrison where the disease was rampant, described its terrible symptoms in the February 1919 *Canadian Medical Association Journal*. "When first seen, the patient's face was flushed, the nostrils blocked, the tongue heavily coated with thick whitish fur at the edges with a brown centre, the lips blue, the throat dark red, the skin hot and moist, the temperature 103 or 104 degrees ... As time went on, quantities of blood-stained expectoration or nearly pure dark blood was expelled, respiration became laboured, face and fingers cyanosed, active delirium came on, the tongue became dry and brown, the whole surface of the body blue and the patient died from failure of respiration."



Woodrow Wilson

Unable to attend

It can be argued that the Spanish flu may have changed the course of international history. Pacifist U.S. President Woodrow Wilson was disabled by flu during the negotiations for the Treaty of Versailles that ended World War I. Had he been able to participate, the treaty would certainly have been more humanitarian and equitable. In his absence, the final form of the treaty drafted by the triumphant Allies was so punitive and restrictive for the defeated side that a decade later, an unemployed Austrian painter sought to strike back against the Allies who had imposed these rules on his people. Thus Adolf Hitler began the march to World War II.

(Excerpt from *Bird Flu: What We Need to Know* by A.A. Avlicino, a medical researcher and science writer living in rural Alberta. Published by Heritage House, 2006.)

The Spanish flu is thought to have shortened World War I because so many soldiers on both sides fell ill. Soldiers returning home brought the flu with them. Since initial symptoms were mild, the soldiers were not isolated and they spread the disease as they travelled across the country. "It was some time before authorities realized the pandemic was spreading across the country's rail routes," Betty O'Keefe and Ian Macdonald wrote in their 2004 book *Dr. Fred and the Spanish Lady: Fighting The Killer Flu* about how Vancouver's pubic health officer, Dr. Fred Underhill, handled the crisis. "The failure to restrict train travel early on was one of the terrible oversights ... Eventually rail traffic was curtailed almost completely, but not before thousands of passengers and employees had taken ill."

No part of Canada escaped the flu. It took from late September until late November for the worst of

GLENBOW ARCHIVES/NA-964-22

GLENBOW ARCHIVES/ NA-3452-2

From left to right: Gladys Stephenson, Cora Stephenson, Addie McDonald, and Annie Grisdale – four telephone operators – pose outside their workplace wearing masks to protect themselves from the outbreak.

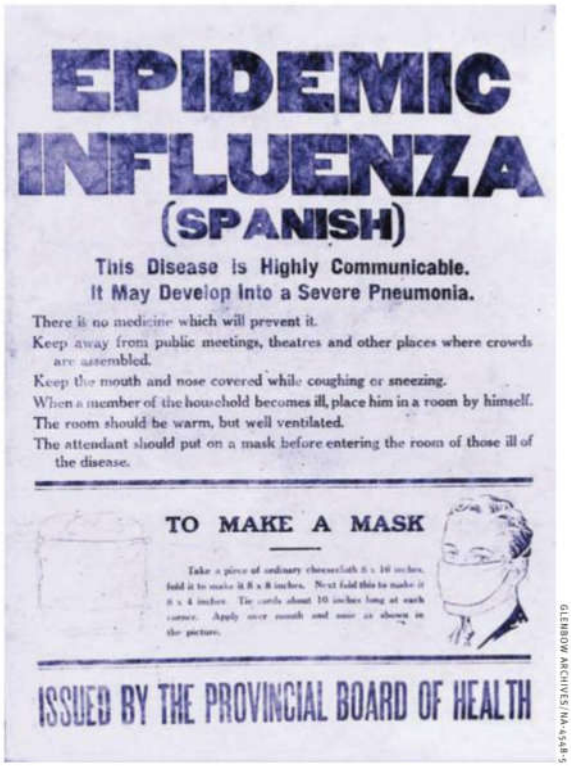
the flu to abate in Canada. According to the November 1918 *Canadian Medical Journal*, Montreal, then Canada's largest city and where most of the infected returning soldiers landed, was worst hit. Out of Montreal's population of 640,000, influenza and complications, chiefly pneumonia, killed 3,128. Toronto, the second-largest city at the time, followed with 1,600 deaths out of a population of 490,000.

There was misery everywhere, and no cure or preventive vaccine. Connaught Laboratories of Toronto, established in 1914, worked day and night to produce a vaccine, largely from human blood cultures obtained from the New York City Health Department. Connaught supplied it free to provincial health departments, hospitals, the military, and health officials. The company made no claim that its vaccine would help; it did not, but it did no harm, either. "Under the circumstances and limited knowledge of the time, the trial of Connaught's vaccine was warranted," says Christopher Rutty, historical consultant to Sanofi pasteur, Connaught's current owner. "The experience helped establish Connaught as a national public health centre."

Several measures were taken to treat the symptoms. For the accompanying acidosis (excessive acid in the body), doctors recommended alkaline medication in the form of bicarbonate of soda, citrate of potash, or limewater and milk. Moderate doses of heroin were used for coughing and insomnia; and to clean out the digestive tract, a saline cathartic was recommended, such as Epsom salts. Aspirin had been suggested as a way of treating influenza in a 1904 American textbook, *Materia Medica, Pharmacology and Therapeutics*, but no mention was made of it in *Canadian Medical Association Journal* articles on influenza of this period. Since the outbreak of the Spanish flu, progress to find effective treatment has been slow. Even today's flu antivirals only reduce illness duration by a day or two.

Desperate Canadians resorted to camphor, even laxatives, although doctors said they were useless. Alcohol was regarded as a form of pain relief, but there was a shortage because army demands were filled first and Prohibition was in force. The public turned to patent medicines that were laced with alcohol or narcotics. "The 1918 flu is instructive in that it showed people can seek redress from contagion in wrong ways and quackery can run rife," Dr. Levy says. "There is always fear of things we can't see or control. Anxiety is natural, but irrational or unreasonable fear can be very debilitating."

In newspaper ads, enterprising businesses promoted their products as essential to warding off the flu. Eaton's department store: "Keeping Warm Spells Safety First in These Days of Epidemic and Chilly Houses. Slippers That the Convalescent Will Specially Appreciate." Bovril (a beef extract beverage): "Guard Against Epidemics by building up the defensive forces of the body with Bovril." Milton's Jaeger Pure Wool of Montreal: "Don't Get The Flu. Let Jaeger Pure Wool


EPIDEMIC
INFLUENZA
(SPANISH)

This Disease is Highly Communicable.
It May Develop Into a Severe Pneumonia.

There is no medicine which will prevent it.
Keep away from public meetings, theatres and other places where crowds are assembled.
Keep the mouth and nose covered while coughing or sneezing.
When a member of the household becomes ill, place him in a room by himself.
The room should be warm, but well ventilated.
The attendant should put on a mask before entering the room of those ill of the disease.

TO MAKE A MASK

Take a piece of ordinary cheesecloth 8 x 16 inches, fold it to make it 8 x 8 inches. Next fold this to make it 8 x 4 inches. Tie cords about 16 inches long at each corner. Apply over mouth and nose as shown in the picture.

ISSUED BY THE PROVINCIAL BOARD OF HEALTH

GLENBOW ARCHIVES/ NA-4548-5

This 1918 poster, issued by the Alberta Provincial Board of Health, provides information on Spanish flu and instructions on how to make a mask.

Protect You From Chill. Consult us as you would your Doctor." Dominion of Canada Guarantee and Accident Insurance Company: "Our special sickness policy covers Spanish Influenza. Pays a weekly indemnity and makes a weekly provision for hospital expenses." (In 1918 there were more life insurance claims in Canada related to influenza: 32.6 percent, than to the war: 20.95 percent.)

Isolation of the sick was the primary tactic taken to halt the spread of the flu, a course of action still followed today. Wrote Dr. H.O. Howitt of Guelph, Ontario, in the November 1919 *Canadian Journal of Public Health*: "I know of a town in Ontario with only two doctors and a hospital well out of town. Doctor One kept his patients at home in the bed he found them in and preached the rules and lost very few patients. Doctor Two had his patients driven in an ordinary conveyance to the hospital and used many drugs but was unfortunate in his results."

Doctors found that surgical masks (also worn during the SARS scare) were ineffective. Dr. T.H. Whitelaw, Edmonton's medical officer of health, wrote in the December 1919 *Canadian Medical Association Journal*: "The number of cases continued to increase after the Province of Alberta ordered everyone to wear a mask outside the home and public confidence in it as a prevention soon gave place to ridicule." Whitelaw was adamant that quarantine, used against scarlet fever and diphtheria, was impractical with the flu.

Reliance on quarantine was not always effective, Dr. Whitelaw cautioned:

> The number of cases reported and quarantined did not represent more than 60 percent of the actual cases. Hundreds of cases were so doubtful or mild in nature as to be regarded as common colds. Many citizens regarded quarantine placards as an injustice because their neighbours avoided quarantine by concealment or evasion. Some physicians began to be careless or indifferent in reporting because they alleged other physicians were not [reporting] ... To have attempted prosecution would have been impractical because no magistrate would be likely to convict owing to the impossibility of absolute certainty in the diagnosis of most cases ... The maintaining of bodily health by normal living and the avoidance of panic, worry or fatigue, seemed to be the only practical method of combating the infection.

Many communities ordered stores and bars to close early and public places such as theatres, movie houses, dancehalls, bowling alleys, auction rooms, and churches to close entirely. Schools were closed, too. However, Dr. John McCullough, chief officer of Ontario's Board of Health, argued in the November 1918 *Canadian Medical Health Association Journal* that "the utility of closing churches, schools, theatres, etc. is obviously limited when department stores, business places and street and railway cars are allowed to carry on business as usual. There seems to be no doubt that children would be better at school than running in the streets and spending their time (as they have in large numbers in Toronto) in the shops."

Businesses urged staff to take anti-flu precautions. A September 29, 1918, memo to employees from Bell Telephone Company president L.B. McFarlane recommended covering the mouth when sneezing or coughing, gargling with salt water, and avoiding crowds. "It is a public duty, as well as a personal advantage, that our employees should avoid the epidemic by every possible means," he concluded. Nevertheless, so many operators fell ill that Bell placed ads in the Montreal newspapers in October asking the public to only use the phone when "absolutely neces-

Have patients

At the Ontario legislature, Dr. Margaret Patterson gave three lengthy lectures on caring for patients at home, which the Toronto *Globe* printed in October 1918 as a valuable public service. Her advice is still useful today:

Location of "sick" room: Should be convenient to the bathroom. Not connected to any of the living rooms to keep the patient separate from other members of the household. South or southwest exposure best. A south or southwest exposure in the afternoon when the patient feels tired and depressed has an almost magical effect. No disease germ can withstand the direct rays of the sun for any length of time.

Ventilation: Convince the household they will never get a cold from fresh air ... There must be pure air in the lungs if there is to be any chance for your patient. We can live three weeks without food, days without drink, but only a few minutes without oxygen and it is obtained from the air we breathe.

Nose blowing: Use crepe toilet paper, put the pieces in a paper bag and burn the bags.

Meals: Should be light. Keep patient's dishes separate and wash separately.

Delirium: Never be afraid of a delirious patient. Never dispute with him. Always try to soothe him ... A cold cloth on the head and warmth on the feet will help take his mind off what is worrying him and a gentle massage on the forehead will give relief and often put him to sleep.

The Public Health Agency of Canada has information available on the avian influenza at ‹www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza›.

Has the flu flown?

Many years after the tide of Spanish flu ebbed, human virus samples saved from the pandemic prove that it was much more closely related to avian viruses than anyone had thought, raising the possibility that it arose directly by mutation into a type that can infect humans. The analyses of the Spanish flu virus show that its new counterpart shares many of the same types of mutations, compared to traditional avian viruses. It is suspected that these very mutations allowed the development of the incredibly virulent agent that killed well over fifty million people in 1918.

By 1959, early versions of the modern avian virus struck Scotland's bird population. This wave soon petered out and didn't surface again until thirty-two years later in turkeys in England. However, the first recorded transmission from birds to humans occurred in Hong Kong in 1997, infecting eighteen people and killing six. Prompt action from the local authorities included slaughtering every chicken in the territory.

Next, a major outbreak hit Thailand and Vietnam's poultry population in January 2004. Within weeks, the virus was present in neighboring Asian countries, including China, Indonesia, and Japan. More than forty million chickens were destroyed and the spread was contained two months later, after twenty-three people had died. By January 2005, half of the Vietnamese cities and provinces were infected and millions more poultry were sacrificed. However, nothing matched the virus' stunning reach in the winter of 2005–06. Within a few months, it had spread across Asia and the Indian subcontinent to the Middle East, Africa, and to virtually every country in Europe. At that time it sat on the cusp of the avian migratory flyways that would bring it to the Americas. To date, almost a billion birds have died or been slaughtered.

The very structure of the avian flu virus dictates that, as it becomes better adapted to human-to-human transmission, its lethality declines, but in total it will kill far more people as it spreads to thousands or millions of times more humans. The Spanish flu killed over fifty million people, after infecting over one billion. Various researchers have agreed that a pandemic could be just around the corner. Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases has said, "This virus has the potential to trigger the next pandemic, which, judging from history, is well overdue."

Excerpt from *Bird Flu: What We Need to Know* by A.A. Avlicino.

sary" to enable the "prompt and efficient handling of important government calls and calls to physicians."

In Montreal, the Roman Catholic Church ingeniously dealt with church closure. Sunday morning, the bourdon of Notre Dame Cathedral pealed forth, signalling parish priests to celebrate Mass on behalf of their absent congregation. Priests then brought the sacred host to parishioners' homes themselves. On October 22, the Montreal *Gazette* reported an animal-friendly corollary of the flu. "With hunting conditions at their best just now in the northern Quebec woods, there are practically no hunters about and the game is enjoying an immunity hitherto unknown at this season of the year ... the epidemic has got into the woods and many of the guides employed by the various fish and game clubs are ill."

The flu was especially hard on medical workers. "Fatigue among doctors and nurses, who necessarily had to work long hours, undoubtedly accounted for their tending to eventually fall victims to the disease, rather than the element of special exposure which their work entailed," Dr. Whitelaw observed. Given time for perspective, the Canadian Medical Association's Dr. Levy reasons, "My impression is that doctors handled the situation with professional fortitude. They were exhausted but kept working, mobilizing volunteers to help in secondary ways, and also providing support to those physicians unable to carry on."

At that time, Canada had no federal health department to coordinate a national response, only provincial and municipal authorities. The federal department was created in 1919, largely in response to the Spanish flu. "It's clear that there is an important role for governments in public health," Dr. Levy says. "They must demonstrate strong and decisive leadership to ensure that the best available resources are brought to bear on public health challenges including overwhelming emergencies. It's good that we have an agency to help us deal with future threats." Nearly ninety years later, there is much to be learned from how Canada responded to the major health threat of the Spanish flu.

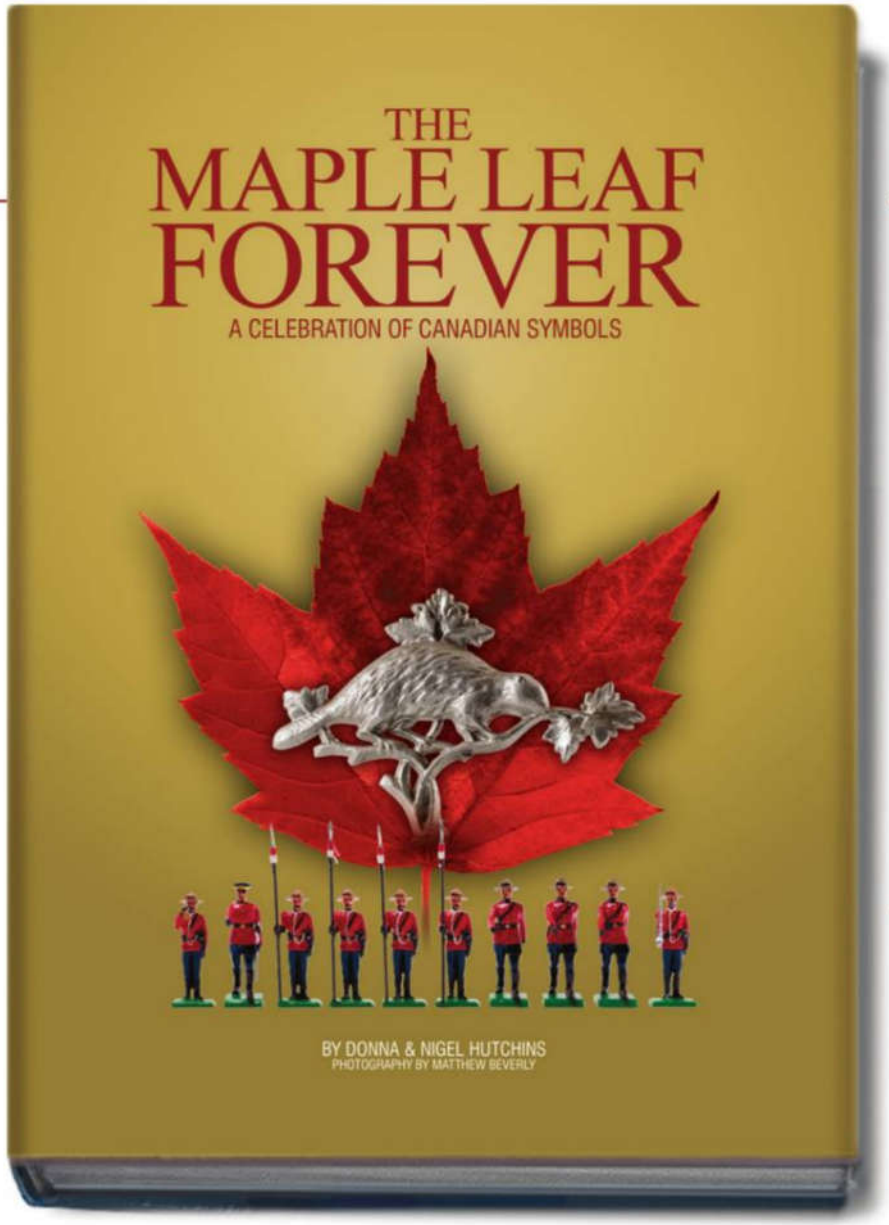
Susan Goldenberg is the author of several books, including *Snatched! The Peculiar Kidnapping of Beer Tycoon John Labatt*, published by Dundurn Press.

Et Cetera

Dr. Fred and the Spanish Lady: Fighting the Killer Flu
by Betty O'Keefe and Ian Macdonald. Heritage House, Surrey, B.C., 2004.

The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History
by John M. Barry. Viking, New York, 2004.

In *The Beaver*: "No Cause of Alarm" By Ian Millar. December 2000/January 2001. "Spanish Influenza 1918–1919: No Armistice with Death" by Robert C. Belyk and Diane M. Belyk. October/November 1988. Back issues available through TheBeaver.ca.



The best collection ever assembled of Canada's three enduring national symbols.

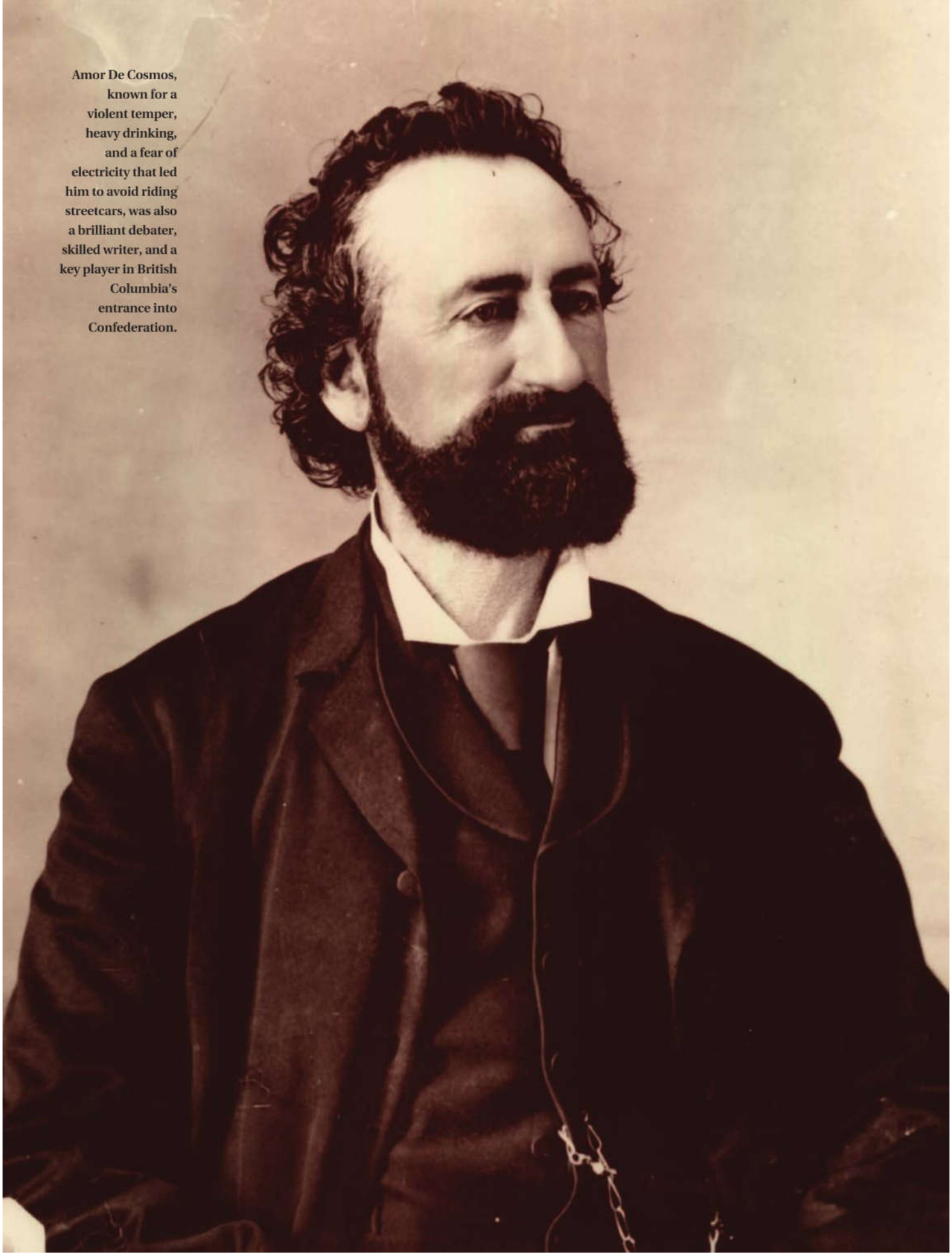
Donna and Nigel Hutchins have created a stunning book of objects that use the Maple Leaf, Beaver and Mountie to define our politics, commerce and culture. With more than 400 colour images in its 224 oversize pages, this book will delight every Canadian historian and collector.

Published by

The BOSTON MILLS PRESS

Distributed by Firefly Books

At bookstores now!



Amor De Cosmos, known for a violent temper, heavy drinking, and a fear of electricity that led him to avoid riding streetcars, was also a brilliant debater, skilled writer, and a key player in British Columbia's entrance into Confederation.

Different Drummer

A strange name. An odd man. B.C.'s Amor De Cosmos styled himself "Lover of the Universe," but there was no love lost between him and his political opponents.

by Norm and Carol Hall

He was British Columbia's second premier, and by all rights should have been its first. Without him, there might never have been a Canadian province on the Pacific Coast.

Ever since he first set foot on the nine-year-old Crown colony of Vancouver Island in 1858, his was the voice that clamoured most loudly and incessantly for three very unlikely political goals: the union of Vancouver Island and the mainland, the union of British Columbia with Canada, and the granting of responsible self-government for B.C.

A true political visionary, he insisted that British born in North America, such as himself, held the same inherent rights as native-born Englishmen, even though, as B.C. politician Dr. John Sebastian Helmcken wrote in his 1890 memoirs, Canadians were "very commonly considered North American Chinamen" by the British establishment in the colony. Undaunted by such derision, he advocated the union of all British North American colonies as early as 1860, envisioning a nation that stretched "from the United States boundary to the Arctic Ocean, and … from the Atlantic to the Pacific."

Beyond that, he envisioned a Canada as an autonomous member of a yet-unimagined British Commonwealth, with a governor general chosen "from among our people." One of B.C.'s first MPs in Ottawa (a post he held for a time simultaneously with being premier), he lost his seat for daring to suggest that Canada someday seek independent nationhood.

His name was Amor De Cosmos. Today, both in B.C. and in Canada as a whole, he is remembered – if he is remembered at all – for all the wrong reasons.

His unusual name, meaning "Lover of the Universe" (he was born William Alexander Smith) didn't help his cause. Nor did his singular personality and appearance. Despised by autocrats (the colonial secretary once described him as "a thorough Democratic ruffian") he habitually penned such statements as: "The representatives of the people are the servants of the people. The people are the masters. The masters want to know what they [their representatives] are doing." Yet Amor De Cosmos

BC ARCHIVES, ROYAL BC MUSEUM/G-05497

BC ARCHIVES, ROYAL BC MUSEUM/A-02259

The B.C. Legislative Assembly, April 22, 1875, on the steps of the original parliament buildings in Victoria, known as the "Bird Cages," a name inspired by their architectural style and proximity to Bird Cage Walk.

[De Cosmos] managed to antagonize friend and foe alike. [He] could be petty, was probably corrupt, and did not always practise the principles he so eloquently preached. But odd duck that he was, he commanded respect even among his opponents.

was no man-of-the-people populist – by all accounts he was aloof, arrogant, vain, and as Dr. Helmcken noted, "uncommonly egotistical." In frontier Victoria, where wagons sank in mud to their wheel hubs in winter, he was always impeccably dressed in frock coat, top hat, and patent leather boots. The cane he carried was "not used for locomotion" but for self-defence – and sometimes offence – in settling political arguments.

A loner both personally and politically, he managed to antagonize friend and foe alike – even John Robson (another future premier of B.C.), whose political views once so closely matched his own that the two were lampooned as one head with two faces. De Cosmos could be petty, was probably corrupt, and did not always practise the principles he so eloquently preached. But odd duck that he was, he commanded respect even among his opponents. As Robson once put it, "We have no reason to love him as a man. As a politician we differ with him in many things, and distrust him in everything! Yet … we cannot but admire the self-sacrificing zeal, the absolute devotion with which the man has advocated measures which he doubtless, at the time, believed to be right; and that he possesses legislative abilities of no mean order … his most bitter enemies will admit."

Born in Nova Scotia in 1825, William Alexander Smith spent his youth pursuing his fascination with political theory, focusing on the notion of responsible government as espoused by Joseph Howe (the parliamentary system consisting of a governor who exercises power only on the advice of an executive cabinet, which must have the support of a majority of elected legislators, who in turn represent the will of the majority of voters in their riding). Seemingly destined for a career as a wholesale grocery clerk, Smith abruptly decided to head for the goldfields of California in 1851. He was soon making a comfortable living there not by mining, but by "mining the miners" – photographing claims to establish proof of ownership at $20 a

claim. It was while living in California that Smith legally became Amor De Cosmos.

His 1858 trip to what is now B.C. to assess the newly discovered Fraser goldfields may have rekindled his latent fascination with the British political model, for he promptly sold his photography business and founded a newspaper in Victoria, the *British Colonist* (forerunner of today's Victoria *Times Colonist*).

In the very first paper, De Cosmos promised to address the issue of "the union of these colonies" and to "counsel the introduction of responsible government." In the next, he took direct aim at the "Family Company Compact" of Vancouver Island's government: "Loyalty, honesty and competency – the tried strength of British officials, which could be had for the asking – are branded with the mark of illegitimacy, and offices of the colony filled with toadyism, consanguinity, and incompetency, compounded with white-washed Englishmen, and renegade Yankees."

There was reason for him to see red. James Douglas, the stern, able, and thoroughly autocratic chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company's Pacific headquarters in Fort Victoria, had been simultaneously appointed governor of Vancouver Island in 1851. (This dual loyalty didn't bother the fort's several hundred residents in the least. Virtually all were HBC employees and expected all civil expenses to be paid by the company, not by self-imposed taxes.)

In 1856, the colonial office had ordered Douglas to constitute a legislative assembly, but the seven members duly elected included Douglas's brother-in-law, his niece's husband, his future son-in-law (the genial and pragmatic Dr. Helmcken, long-time Speaker of the Assembly and usual political opponent – although sometime ally – of De Cosmos) and four current or former members of the HBC.

An 1858 gold rush on the mainland, where the HBC held exclusive trading rights but which was under no political authority of any kind, had precipitated a crisis. Almost overnight, the white population of the whole region jumped from about 450 to more than 30,000 – mostly rowdy and undisciplined American miners. Chaos and the threat of American annexation by occupation loomed large. The autocratic Douglas leapt into the governmental breach and single-handedly "appointed" British judges and other officials to maintain order. The colonial office hastily legalized such appointments, established the mainland as another Crown colony (British Columbia), and appointed Douglas dual governor on the condition that he remove his third hat by resigning from the HBC.

Now both colonies were nominally British, but the population was largely American, currency and postage were American, American flags were flown, and American holidays celebrated. The general feeling, even among politicians such as Helmcken, was that annexation to the U.S. was inevitable. A petition requesting annexation was even written by some colonists and sent to Queen Victoria.

To all of this, De Cosmos and his paper were vehemently opposed, even suggesting a counter-petition requesting British annexation of American territories north of the Columbia River, around today's B.C. interior. For the next five years he relentlessly called for the union of the two Pacific colonies, the unification of all British North American colonies, and, as Helmcken complained, "kept up a perpetual agitation for responsible government." Having a better grounding in political procedure than most of the colony's neophyte legislators, De Cosmos also criticized their form: "Even the parliamentary rules of an Indian council, where one chief speaks and all the warriors listen, were unheeded. Debate partook more of the character of a lot of Bavarians after they had swallowed the sixtieth glass of lager, than of men who aspired to the style and prerogatives of an Assembly."

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA/PA26465

This portrait, taken in July 1869, is of Honourable Joseph Howe, one of the fathers of Confederation. His ideas greatly influenced Amor De Cosmos's concept of responsible government.

In 1863, De Cosmos successfully stood for election to the Assembly. There, he continued to lobby for the union of the two colonies and responsible government. One goal was to be eclipsed by the other: although a De Cosmos-inspired resolution on responsible government had been accepted in 1864, it was not implemented. When the colonies were finally joined in 1866, the representative institutions of Vancouver Island government were extinguished by absorption into the partially appointed government of British Columbia.

With B.C. now one Crown colony, De Cosmos turned his sights toward Confederation. Although he had long advocated such a move, he was virtually alone in the Legislative Council. As Helmcken noted, "no one

HANNAH HATHERLY MAYNARD/BC ARCHIVES, ROYAL BC MUSEUM/A-01222

Lover of the Universe

Amor De Cosmos was created, not born. He came into existence fully grown, age twenty-eight, on February 17, 1854, when his predecessor William Alexander Smith legally ceased to exist. His name – meaning "Lover of the Universe" in Latin, French, and Greek – has been cause for hilarity, suspicion, disdain, and dismissal ever since.

His chosen designation was predictably mangled (Amos de Cosmos, Armor Debosmos), offered improvements (Amor Muggins Cosmos, Amor De Cosmos Caesar) and was a lifelong source of rumours that it covered a shady past of illegal or immoral nature. To this day, it condemns its bearer to be remembered primarily as a colourful character who died insane.

Why did Bill Smith choose such an unforgettable name? Let the man speak for himself: "I desire not to adopt the name of Amor De Cosmos because it smacks of a foreign title, but because it is an unusual name and its meaning tells what I love most, viz: order, beauty, the world, the universe."

In the context of the times, the name makes sense. Major industrial and scientific inventions (the sewing machine, telegraph, steamships, railroads) were changing the way people had lived for centuries. Economic and national expansion, more universally accessible education, advances in medicine, ongoing political reform, and gradual extension of the political franchise all pointed toward an achievable utopia. There was no limit to what man could do, invent, or discover: mechanical principles governed man, machine, and nature alike.

De Cosmos undoubtedly saw his life's passion, the British North American parliamentary system of responsible government, as a thing of supreme order and beauty. In his eyes, this near-perfect political mechanism could lead to a universally civilized, well-ordered society.

The last word on his name belongs to De Cosmos himself: "If parties object to my political views, they are freely open to dissection. My address is before the public. Whatever its defects or shortcomings, it is a frank, honest utterance. Let the principles I avow be handled without scruple, but the name I choose to be called by is my own affair. If it pleases me, who has any right to object?"

[in B.C.'s Legislative Council] knew much of this subject save De Cosmos and Robson." Nevertheless, De Cosmos managed to convince council to request provision in the BNA Act of 1867 for B.C.'s eventual entry into Confederation.

Trade, transportation, and population patterns of the region – not to mention the 1867 U.S. purchase of Alaska that sandwiched B.C. between American territories, prompting the widespread American boast of readiness to "eat her up at any time" – made U.S. annexation much more likely. Even Britain voiced approval of this scenario. The London *Times* wrote: "If the people of B.C. after due reflection reject Confederation as impractical and desire to join the United States, the Mother Country will in no good way seek to prevent annexation." Yet in 1868, De Cosmos called for B.C.'s immediate admission to Canada under his specified terms that included "popular representative institutions, including responsible control over the Government" and a "transcontinental wagon-road" (not yet a railroad) as "an essential condition."

Later that year, convinced that Confederation was the will of the people but that Governor Frederick Seymour was thwarting that will, De Cosmos determined to go over Seymour's head and appeal directly to Queen Victoria. He and Robson organized the Yale Convention, to which citizen-delegates from all over B.C. gathered "for the purpose of accelerating the admission of this Colony into the Dominion of Canada" and "to secure Representative Institutions with Responsible Government for this Colony." Although the delegates' resolutions were forwarded to London, the convention was widely mocked because one member, Mifflin Gibbs of Salt Spring Island, was black.

De Cosmos's lofty arguments were crucial in bringing the question of Confederation into public debate, but what finally carried the day for Canada was much more prosaic. B.C. was broke again (as Vancouver Island had been when it agreed to unite with the mineral-rich mainland) and the attitude of most colonists regarding government was "whatever – what's in it for me?" Britain was inattentive and indifferent. Going it alone was not an option for a population of 36,000, more than two-thirds of whom were native people. U.S. promises, although enticing, showed no signs of coming through. Ottawa promised to pay off B.C.'s debt of $1,500,000 and build a railway.

The denouement was swift. In 1869, Governor Seymour died unexpectedly and was replaced by pro-Confederation Anthony Musgrave. In 1870, a three-man Confederation delegation – which pointedly excluded both De Cosmos and Robson but did include a reluctant Helmcken, who until then had been anti-Confederation – was sent to Ottawa. There, they secured terms agreeable to both sides. Responsible government for B.C., the Holy Grail sought so long by De Cosmos, was granted by Governor Musgrave on July 19, 1871. The following day, B.C. became a province of the Dominion of Canada.

De Cosmos was passed over as lieutenant governor in favour of Joseph Trutch, leader of the Confederation delegation. Trutch, in an "anybody-but-De Cosmos" move, asked an obscure and uninspiring lawyer named John Foster McCreight to head B.C.'s first government as premier. De Cosmos was elected to both the provincial Legislative Assembly and the federal House of Commons.

In 1872, McCreight's shaky government fell and Trutch had no choice but to call on De Cosmos to form a government. As premier, De Cosmos was competent but unremarkable; when dual representation was abolished he resigned both his premiership and his seat in 1874 to concentrate his energies in Ottawa. There, he lobbied hard for the extension of the Canadian Pacific Railway to Vancouver Island, arguing that the mainland terminus should be moved from Port Moody to English Bay, then continue by "steam railway ferry" to the Island. (When the terminus was finally moved in 1887, it gave rise to a new city called Vancouver.)

De Cosmos was handily re-elected as MP in 1874 and 1878. Just before the election of 1882 he stated that he saw "no reason why people of Canada should not look forward to Canada becoming a sovereign and independent state." He lost his seat.

Retreating into a solitary private life at fifty-seven, De Cosmos began to show signs of the relentless, fifteen-year-long mental and physical decline that was to take his life. This affliction may well have been Alzheimer's disease, for he lost the ability to speak coherently and his behavior became increasingly erratic and bizarre. The man once considered by the popular press as "a power of great good in British Columbia" and "who once swayed the destinies of this great province" now wandered the streets of Victoria looking gaunt and haggard – although still nattily attired in top hat and frock coat – unnerving passersby by staring into their faces, as George Woodcock's 1975 biography of De Cosmos states, "as if … seeking to revive some lost memory." He eventually required a guardian; two years before his death he was declared legally of unsound mind.

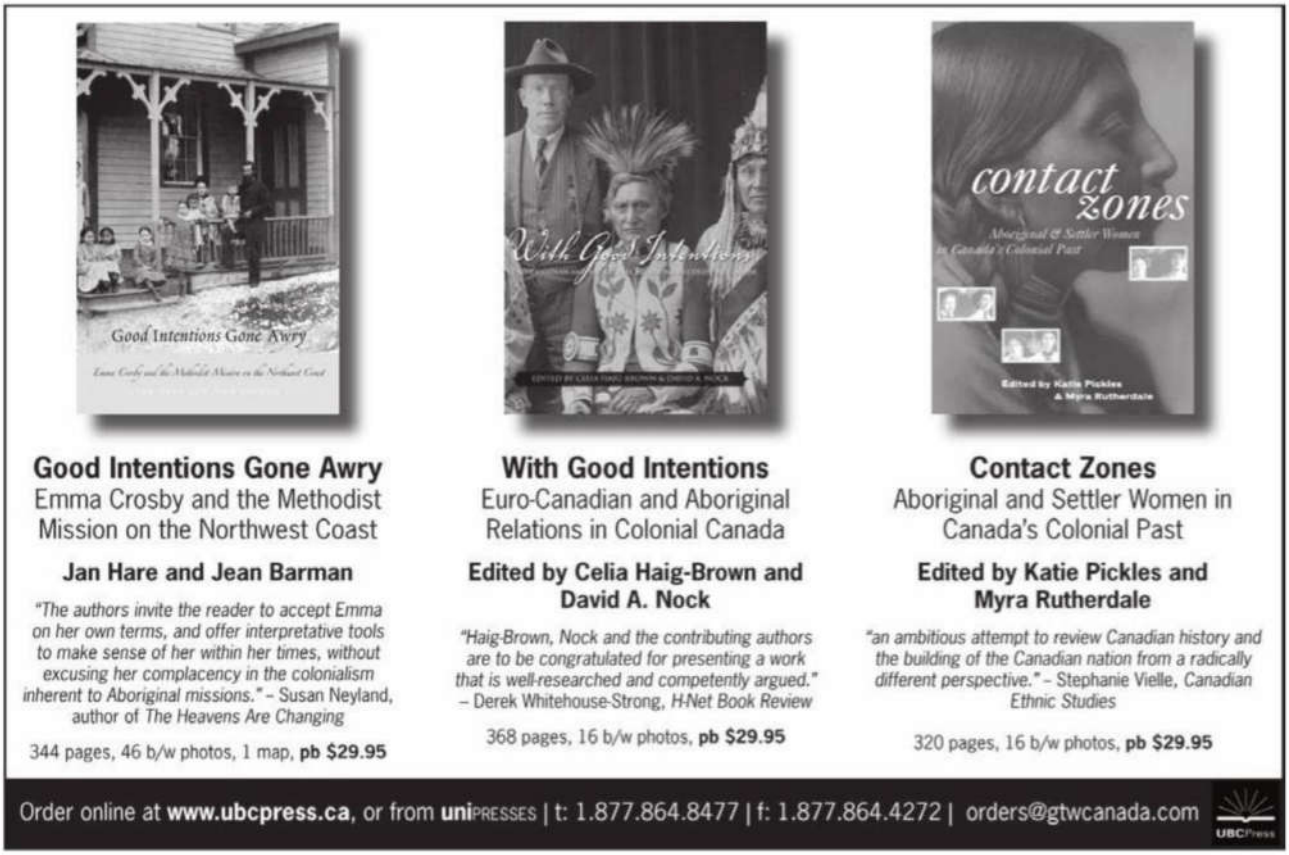
When death finally came on July 4, 1897, only a few dozen people attended his perfunctory funeral.

Norm and Carol Hall are B.C. freelance writers with a special interest in the past, present, and future of the Pacific Northwest. Their last story for *The Beaver* was "At a Crucial Hour: The Attack on Estevan Point" (April/May 2004).

Et Cetera

Amor De Cosmos: Journalist and Reformer by George Woodcock. Oxford University Press, Toronto, 1975.

In *The Beaver*: "Courting Mifflin Gibbs," by Abraham Arnold, April/May 2001. The story of the black man who in 1860 organized B.C.'s black émigrés into a powerful voting block. Back issue available through TheBeaver.ca.


Good Intentions Gone Awry
With Good Intentions
contact zones
Aboriginal & Settler Women in Canada's Colonial Past
Edited by Katie Pickles & Myra Rutherdale
Good Intentions Gone Awry
Emma Crosby and the Methodist Mission on the Northwest Coast
Jan Hare and Jean Barman
"The authors invite the reader to accept Emma on her own terms, and offer interpretative tools to make sense of her within her times, without excusing her complacency in the colonialism inherent to Aboriginal missions." – Susan Neyland, author of The Heavens Are Changing
344 pages, 46 b/w photos, 1 map, pb $29.95
With Good Intentions
Euro-Canadian and Aboriginal Relations in Colonial Canada
Edited by Celia Haig-Brown and David A. Nock
"Haig-Brown, Nock and the contributing authors are to be congratulated for presenting a work that is well-researched and competently argued." – Derek Whitehouse-Strong, H-Net Book Review
368 pages, 16 b/w photos, pb $29.95
Contact Zones
Aboriginal and Settler Women in Canada's Colonial Past
Edited by Katie Pickles and Myra Rutherdale
"an ambitious attempt to review Canadian history and the building of the Canadian nation from a radically different perspective." – Stephanie Vielle, Canadian Ethnic Studies
320 pages, 16 b/w photos, pb $29.95
Order online at www.ubcpress.ca, or from unipresses | t: 1.877.864.8477 | f: 1.877.864.4272 | orders@gtwcanada.com
UBCPress

In 1958, Joseph and Elizabeth Szabo immigrated to Canada following the Hungarian Revolution. Though fifty years have passed, their memories of the refugee camps remain clear.

Reflections *of* Revolution

When Hungary erupted fifty years ago in anti-communist revolt, thousands found refuge in Canada. What began as calamity has ended, for most, in peace and prosperity. by Julie Gedeon

Fifty years ago, on October 23, 1956, newlyweds Jeno and Rozse Balogh were walking home from work when they encountered a throng of people crowding Budapest's Bern Square, many of them students from the Technical University. What started as a small student rally gathered steam, turning into riotous protest. The Baloghs realized that the country's mounting dissatisfaction was finally out in the open. With enthusiasm, the Baloghs joined the masses. They became caught up in the crowd's emboldened demonstrations against the communist government, clamouring for long-denied democratic rights. Rozse, an eighteen-year-old draughtsperson, and her husband Jeno, a twenty-three-year-old building designer, had no idea how greatly the next few days would transform their lives. They would soon be counted among the 37,500 refugees Canada welcomed in the months following the Hungarian Revolution.

The Baloghs followed the demonstrators to the state-controlled radio station. When unarmed students tried to force their way into the station to broadcast their demands, the Soviet military and Yugoslav secret police shot at them. Infuriated, the crowd took to the streets, ransacking police stations and taking their guns. Arms factory and arsenal workers also began to distribute guns to the masses. Jeno Balogh joined the freedom fighters in a shootout that drove the Soviets out of Hungary within a few days – but not before thousands were killed.

"When the secret police finally surrendered their headquarters, some people were so mad they killed the police on the spot," Jeno says. "Those are things you don't like to remember but can never forget." The Baloghs helped to bury the dead, care for the injured, and feed political prisoners, eventually reuniting them with their families.

In Budapest that same October night, four-year-old Miklos Lendvay heard shots before his mother and stepfather rushed him into the basement of their apartment building to join the other tenants. When he

RON LEVINE

STAR WEEKLY/NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF CANADA/PA-167723

Hungarian refugee child upon arrival in Canada. Between 1956 and 1957, Canada admitted nearly 37,500 Hungarian refugees who were escaping oppression following the Hungarian Revolution.

emerged days later to shop for food with his mother, they saw tanks everywhere. "I heard gunshots from a building across the street and then watched a tank slowly turn, and then I heard this boom. The building's facade collapsed like someone had sliced it with a knife."

Earlier the same day, Joseph and Elizabeth Szabo also heard gunshots in Budapest. Joseph, a twenty-four-year-old metallurgy teacher, caught the fervour gripping students, teachers, and working-class people revolting against the brutal communist government that had been installed in 1949 by the Soviets. He jumped on a truck with about thirty other men heading for the barracks. "We shouted at the soldiers to support the revolution until officers pointed machine guns at us and ordered all of us inside a building." They were held captive. For days, Elizabeth feared that her husband had been injured or killed. She listened to the news for any word about where he might be. With infant daughter Emilia in her care, she hesitated to go out to look for him because of the violence in the streets. The men spent four days locked up with no food and no idea what might happen to them. Gunfire rattled their prison wall on the fourth night. The next morning, two men peeked through a window and saw the Hungarian flag with the Soviet emblems removed from the centre. This sight filled them with hope. Within hours, an officer released them, offered them bread, and apologized for their incarceration.

After the Soviets withdrew, the Szabos, Baloghs, and many others, believed Hungary would remain free. "An interim government was appointed, and we distributed newspapers telling the world what Hungary hoped to be," Jeno Balogh says. He still feels betrayed by the United States and other powers for ignoring Hungary when it became clear the Soviets planned to return. "Nobody came to help us." The war with Egypt over the Suez Canal held the West's attention. In fact, the United States declared its position on October 27: "We do not look upon these nations [Hungary and other Warsaw Pact countries] as potential military allies."

Before dawn on November 4, more than six thousand Soviet tanks rolled into Budapest and began to occupy the rest of Hungary. The assault included air strikes, artillery bombardments, and coordinated tank/infantry actions to regain control of urban core areas. Joseph Szabo joined a group of men who were yanking up street cobblestones to barricade a road, but the tanks hardly slowed. The men exchanged gunfire, but ran off when they realized how out-powered they were.

Similarly, Jeno and Rozse Balogh fought against the Soviet military. Rozse carried food and ammunition to her husband and the other freedom fighters. When the reinstated secret police began rounding up freedom fighters, the Baloghs knew they had to leave quickly. "My wife's parents and sister accompanied us, but I didn't have time to arrange for my parents to leave," Jeno says. The Baloghs hired a guide to help them across minefields to Austria. "We hid in haystacks during the day," Jeno remembers. "The Russians shot bullets in the air to try to flush us out."

Outside Sopron, near Austria, and about 160 kilometres west of Budapest, university student Julius Fodor waited in the hills with a group of freedom fighters hoping to ambush Soviet tanks with heavy artillery. Their plan faltered because some military officers and soldiers who secretly opposed the revolution handed the freedom fighters guns that were missing firing pins.

The revolution failed, but Julius had tasted freedom. For almost two weeks, he and other university students had the opportunity to freely discuss politics and democratic rights. "For so long we couldn't say anything because spies would report on us," he says. "By 1956, the oppression became so intolerable that the whole nation reached a point where it didn't matter if we died. We had to do something."

His parents and sister had fled earlier to Austria. After the revolution was quashed, Julius overheard fellow students making plans to complete their studies in other countries. Hastily, he, too, made plans to leave Hungary.

Julius Fodor made the treacherous journey alone. He knew the minefield between Sopron and Austria had been swept, but still stepped gingerly across, watching for trip wires. At the border, his heart pounded as he scanned for armed guards and patrol dogs. Observing that the watchtower sat empty, Julius dashed about fifty metres over low-strung barbed wire. "Even after I crossed the border, I ran because I was afraid the guards would come after me." At the first village he came across, he met another Hungarian who drove him to the refugee centre where he found his family. "Otherwise, I would have had no idea where they were."

RON LEVINE

Like many of the Hungarian refugees, Joseph and Elizabeth Szabo left their homeland in their youth and started new lives in Canada.

Julius and some other students from Sopron received invitations to continue their studies at the University of British Columbia. He hoped to return to Hungary, but soon appreciated Canada as his permanent home. "People were so good to me right from the beginning."

In mid-December 1956, with Budapest under Soviet occupation, Miklos Lendvay's parents, aunt, and uncle left the four-year old and his seven-year-old cousin with their grandmother. "They escaped to Austria to see if the free world offered a better future for us." A few days later, his grandmother dressed Miklos and his cousin in layers of clothing, stuffing newspaper inside their pant legs and jackets for added insulation. A friend drove the children west to meet a young farmhand who was waiting to take them across the border. Although eager to rejoin his parents, Miklos regretted leaving his home, especially at this time of year. He was worried the baby Jesus would not be able to find him to deliver his Christmas present.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF CANADA/PA-181009

An immigration interpreter briefs a Hungarian immigrant on Canadian customs and geography prior to his 4,700-kilometre train ride from Halifax to Alberta. The train, which ran all the way to Vancouver, was also known as the "freedom train."

"We walked for hours through the snow in the dark when suddenly we heard three gunshots," he remembers. "The farmhand pulled us to the ground and told us to pretend we were dead. With my face in the snow, I heard footsteps crunching toward us, and I opened my eyes a little. When the approaching Russian soldier was only about six metres away from us we heard shots and shouting coming from another direction. Suddenly, the soldier left us, running toward the sounds. Otherwise, we would have been killed."

After surviving that harrowing experience, the farmhand and his two charges made it safely through a thick forest, but the journey exhausted the youngsters. "I remember these people speaking a strange language, German, of course. They gave us soup and bread, then tucked me into a bed with a white duvet where I slept for hours." The next day, Miklos was reunited in Austria with his mother, who had arrived by train from Switzerland. "I was happy to be reunited with my mother, but it was just two days before Christmas, and I was still upset by the thought that the baby Jesus would go to my Budapest apartment while I was in Austria." On Christmas morning, Miklos awoke to find some pine branches tied together and decorated as a Christmas tree, with a green toy car placed underneath. "I was elated! The baby Jesus had found me. To this day, no gift has meant as much." He also remains indebted to the young farmhand who helped his family – and many others – make the journey out of Hungary. Later, Miklos learned that the communists had captured and hanged the young man.

Joseph and Elizabeth Szabo had a big decision to make. They hated living under martial law, but they also dreaded the idea of leaving their families and separating baby Emilia from her extended family. By January, however, they had no choice. Through a police warning, Joseph knew a warrant would be out in a matter of days for his arrest in connection with his involvement in the revolution. The Szabos, Joseph's seventeen-year-old brother Istvan, along with a few cousins and another infant, left Budapest the next day. They figured they had a better chance of escaping if they returned to their hometown near the Hungarian–Yugoslav border. "We gave the excuse that we were moving back to Vizvar because Budapest had no vacant apartments and we didn't want to keep living with Joseph's parents," Elizabeth recalls.

Their rented truck stalled in a snowbank during a blizzard, and, incredibly, a Russian tank stopped to pull it out. Leary to continue the journey with two infants, they stopped for the night in a small village, about two-hundred kilometres southwest of Budapest. Unaware of Joseph's warrant, a Hungarian army officer invited them to stay at his home when he saw them taking shelter at a bakery. The next day, they resumed their journey to Vizvar by train.

Elizabeth's parents had been waiting for them in Vizvar. While her mother prepared a meal for the weary travellers, her father had arranged to have two guides in the neighbouring town of Belavar escort them past the watchtower guards to Yugoslavia. Her parents would not join them on their journey across the border. "It was so difficult," Elizabeth recalls. "I'm an only child and my parents and I had no idea if we would ever see each other again." Continuing their journey toward Belavar in a horse-driven carriage, Elizabeth and her cousin bundled their babies and had a midwife accompany them as a guise. If anyone questioned them, the midwife would tell them the children needed a doctor. Meanwhile, the men walked the several kilometres on foot, prepared to tell anyone who stopped them that they were just visiting friends.

Finally, the party reunited in Belavar, where the two guides were waiting for them. They escorted them at nightfall through a forest. Within a couple of kilometres, one of the guides noticed that they were being followed. He advised the group to continue ahead while he backtracked. The group forged ahead, but within a short distance, the second guide lost his confidence. "I couldn't

believe it when he told us to turn back," Elizabeth says. "Back in Vizvar, we discovered that the person who had been following us was our cousin's mother, who just wanted to see her son off." Meanwhile, the first guide had proceeded back to the Yugoslav–Hungarian border to inquire about whether the families had made it safely across. Told yes, he handed Elizabeth's suitcase to the guards. "It contained our birth certificates, baby clothes, and milk," Elizabeth says. "With all of our papers in Yugoslav hands, we were forced to leave again." On their second attempt, the group made the journey safely, but Elizabeth nearly collapsed from exhaustion. Fortunately, they recovered the missing suitcase. Relatives in Yugoslavia provided them with food and shelter for the night.

The next day, the Szabos lined up with eight-hundred other refugees to cross the Drava River. Two men in a paddleboat were transporting people – twenty at a time – through a break in the swift river's frozen cover. "The boat sat about an inch above the ice," Joseph recollects. "If I had to cross today, I don't know that I would." Trucked to a Croatian refugee camp, the Szabos slept in a barn with hundreds of people. Later, they had nicer accommodations and food at a hotel along the Adriatic Sea. It took in some of the refugees until the Red Cross cut funding. After that, they ate beans every night. Elizabeth maintains, "To this day, my husband hates beans." Joseph worked in the refugee camp for additional food. He built stonewalls, cleaned rain gutters, and performed other odd jobs. At one point, he feared the worst when Yugoslav secret police sought him out at the camp to question him about the revolution. "They thought that because I was a teacher, I helped organize the revolution … but I knew nothing."

Over the next five months, the Szabos lived in six refugee camps. "I sold my earrings, necklace, and winter coat to buy food, but it was difficult to get milk," Elizabeth says. "My daughter was malnourished and sick." From Yugoslavia, the Szabos and Joseph's brother Istvan made their way to France where it would be easier to obtain permission to immigrate to North America. They planned to immigrate to Canada, where Joseph had an aunt living in Kirkland Lake, Ontario. "It was July and I was still wearing a wool sweater that was falling apart," Elizabeth recounts. "I managed to keep one blouse ironed for my interview with Canadian immigration officials."

Miklos Lendvay's happiness at being reunited with his parents did not last long. Though safe in Switzerland, his parents had trouble finding work. They were forced to place the young boy in an orphanage so they could earn money. "It was hard because I didn't speak any of the languages and my parents could only visit me on weekends." It took two years before they could afford the food to keep Miklos at home. Even then, they sometimes ate horsemeat, and his parents often worked from early in the morning to late at night. The Lendvays might have stayed in Switzerland had the rest of their family not immigrated to Montreal. One day, the Lendvays received a telegram informing them that a fire

Uprising usurped

The 1956 Hungarian Revolution was an anti-Soviet revolt in Hungary that commenced October 23 and lasted until November 4, 1956. Years of mounting discontent erupted when university students from the Technical University in Budapest organized a demonstration in Bern Square to read demands calling for democracy and the cessation of Soviet domination.

Following World War II, Hungary had become part of the Soviet area of influence and by 1949, the country had transformed into a communist state under the Hungarian Communist Party. So in 1956, when the new government led by Ernő Gerő to replace Mátyás Rákosi, "Stalin's Best Hungarian Disciple," turned out to be as pro-Soviet as Rákosi himself, the nation's fury could not be quelled. What began as a small protest by university students turned into an all-out revolt when huge crowds joined the demonstration. Hundreds of thousands of Hungarians rose up against the government. They managed to seize control of social institutions and a large amount of territory. Once in control, they began to implement their own policies. Without delay, they carried out executions of pro-Soviet communists and members of the secret police force, the ÁVH (Hungarian State Protection Authority). Imre Nagy was declared the new prime minister and he stated his intention to withdraw Hungary from the Warsaw Pact.

The revolt was quickly suppressed by Soviet troops, and, to a smaller degree, the ÁVH. In a short, twelve-day period, as many as 2,500 Hungarian participants were killed. This number may underestimate the casualties, as it does not include those who disappeared or were executed afterward. The revolution led to a significant drop in support for Marxist-Leninist ideas among Western nations.

Soviet troops entered Hungary twice, both times to provide support to governments in favour of the Warsaw Pact. The first time coincided with the revolution, when the government collapsed on October 23. The second time was to assist the government of János Kádár, which was formed on November 3. Beginning on the evening of October 23, the Hungarian ÁVH shot protestors, while the Soviet troops generally attempted to keep order. Armed resistance and the collapse of the Hungarian Communist Party resulted in a ceasefire between Soviet troops and insurgents by November. The Soviet army intervened on November 4, launching an artillery and air strike offensive against Budapest. Communism was re-established, and by January 1957, the Kádár government had brought the instability to an end. During the uprising and the following period of instability, about 160,000 refugees crossed the border in search of freedom.

had killed a relative, badly injured others, and destroyed the family's Montreal home. To assist their family, the Lendvays immigrated to Montreal. "I expected to see the cowboys and Indians," Miklos says. "Was I in for a shock!"

Now the father of two young boys, Miklos is glad they will never face the difficult family separations that he endured. As an adult, he managed to reconnect with his natural father in Hungary, but his visit to his homeland made him realize how much easier it had been for him to pursue his successful career as a gym owner and fitness trainer in Canada.

The Szabos and Joseph's brother Istvan stayed fifteen months in France to recuperate from their time spent in the refugee camps and to earn some money. Just before they set out for Canada on October 17, 1958, Joseph's brother announced that he had met the love of life and planned to stay in France. "It was upsetting because in the Yugoslav camps we often worried that Istvan would be separated from us because he was single," Elizabeth says, "but we respected his choice."

When the Szabos reached Kirkland Lake, Ontario, where Joseph's aunt lived, they were shocked to find out that work was scarce. "At the Paris consulate I had been told that Canada needed men with trades, but there were no technical jobs in Kirkland Lake." Fortunately, Joseph was picked out of a group of two-hundred men who were seeking work. He felt less fortunate when he discovered that his job involved wiring dynamite. The couple tried their luck in Toronto, but Joseph's first job delivering flyers paid barely enough to live on. In time, immigration officers helped Joseph find a job in plastics, which became his field of work until retirement.

After assisting the freedom fighters during the revolution, the Baloghs spent six months at refugee facilities in Germany and the United Kingdom until they obtained papers to immigrate to Canada. "I wanted to live in Vancouver, which I read had beautiful mountains and milder winters, but when the plane landed in Edmonton, we discovered that we had to get to Vancouver on our own," Jeno says. "We had no money. The Red Cross gave us each $5 and told us to find work. Still, we're very grateful to Canada for giving us a chance."

Rozse Balogh still tears up when she talks about how living in Canada has allowed her family to live free and give their children and grandchildren prosperous lives. For their fiftieth wedding anniversary on July 7, 2006, Jeno took Rozse back to Hungary, but the couple still treasures Canada as their home.

Julie Gedeon writes from Hudson, Quebec.

Et Cetera

Journey to a Revolution: A Personal Memoir and History of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 by Michael Korda. HarperCollins, New York, 2006.

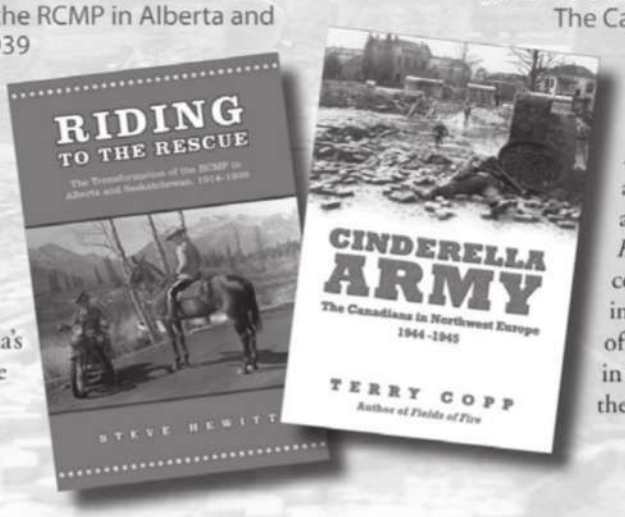
"In the Name of the Working Class": The Inside Story of the Hungarian Revolution by Sandor Kopacsi; translated by Daniel and Judy Stoffman. Lester & Orpen Dennys, Toronto, 1986.

Bringing Canadian History to life...

RIDING TO THE RESCUE
The Transformation of the RCMP in Alberta and Saskatchewan, 1914-1939
Steve Hewitt

How did the RCMP survive beyond its wild-west infancy, and why did it transform itself? *Riding to the Rescue* provides a provocative and incisive look behind one of Canada's most enduring icons at the cusp of the modern era.

240 pp / 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 / Sept. 2006
pb 0802048951 $24.95

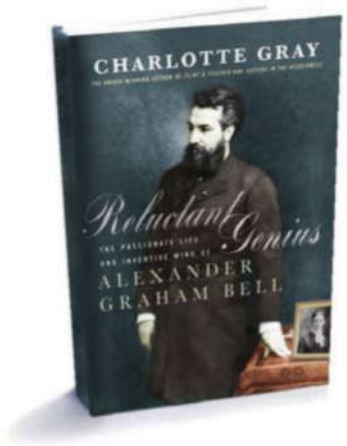


CINDERELLA ARMY
The Canadians in Northwest Europe, 1944-1945
Terry Copp

As passionately written and compellingly argued as its precursor *Fields of Fire* (2003), this book continues the story of the impressive achievements of the First Canadian Army in the last nine months of the war.

392 pp / 6 x 9 / Sept. 2006
cl 0802039251 $45.00

UNIVERSITY OF UTP TORONTO PRESS
available in better bookstores or visit www.utppublishing.com



DIAL "G" FOR GENIUS

Reluctant Genius: The Passionate Life and Inventive Mind of Alexander Graham Bell
by Charlotte Gray
HarperCollins Canada, Toronto, 2006
464 pp., $36.95 hardcover

Most people know at least one thing about Alexander Graham Bell – he invented the telephone. Primarily for that achievement, though there were other great accomplishments, viewers of the CBC's "Greatest Canadian" contest in 2004 voted Bell into ninth spot, just ahead of Wayne Gretzky. It was a remarkable honour for someone who technically never was a Canadian: Alexander Graham Bell was born and raised in Scotland and became an American citizen in 1882. Nevertheless, he did have deep connections with Canada. He spent a few years in Brantford, Ontario, in the early 1870s, where his parents moved after leaving Scotland for health reasons. Then, beginning in the late 1880s, Bell began spending several months every year in the Baddeck area of Cape Breton. On the shores of the Bras d'Or Lake, Bell pursued numerous experiments related to medical science, audiology, and even sheep raising. Aeronautical pursuits formed the largest part of Bell's creative life in Baddeck, from early kite-flying experiments to the success of the Silver Dart in February 1909. On his beloved Beinn Bhreagh estate, Alexander Graham Bell was buried in 1922 at the age of seventy-five.

When I sat down to read Charlotte Gray's new biography of Bell, *Reluctant Genius: The Passionate Life and Inventive Mind of Alexander Graham Bell*, I wondered if the author was going to tell me much that I didn't already know about the iconic figure who, in his later years, bore a strong resemblance to Father Christmas. The answer, I quickly discovered, was yes, a resounding yes. Charlotte Gray opens many fascinating windows into Alexander Graham Bell's life and times. The account starts with his childhood in Edinburgh, where he was raised by his mother, who was deaf, and his father, who was an orator and teacher of the deaf. Gray follow Bell across the Atlantic, first to Canada and then to the United States, where he achieved fame as the inventor of the telephone. But this is just the beginning of the story, as the account moves to Bell's ongoing quests for inventions in fields such as communications and aviation. Beyond Gray's portrayal of his insatiable scientific curiosity, she presents Bell as a humanitarian dedicated to improving the lives of the deaf.

To be precise, Charlotte Gray's *Reluctant Genius* is essentially two biographies rolled into one, with the second biographical focus on Alexander Graham Bell's wife, Mabel Hubbard, a deaf student he fell in love with in Boston in the 1870s. Chapter after chapter, Gray demonstrates how central Mabel was to Bell's success; she assisted her husband's inventive mind and was a true confidante. She gave Bell the emotional stability and support he required throughout his life. Mabel and her father, Gardiner Hubbard, encouraged Bell, and sometimes even insisted that he concentrate on inventions with commercial potential (which explains the aptly conceived title, *Reluctant Genius*). Without such influence from his wife and father-in-law, Bell might easily have let his quest for the telephone slip away and, just as important, he might never have applied for the U.S. patent that led to the family's wealth. It was the financial reward from that invention that allowed Bell to pursue inventing full-time. And it was Mabel, not Bell himself, who managed the family's finances, for Bell had no inclination or talent for such matters.

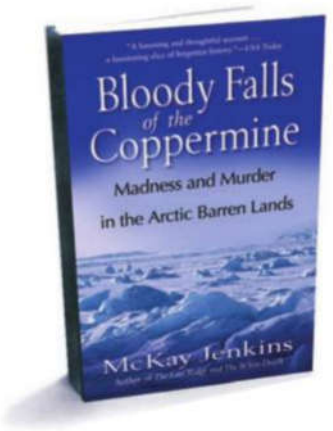
One of the author's challenges in writing this book would have been deciding how much technical information to provide to readers before delving into fields such as sound transmission, aeronautics, marine engineering, and other areas of scientific invention. A certain amount of instruction (or, re-introduction) is necessary for the general reader to grasp the significance of some of Bell's inventions and discoveries, even those that failed. To this end, the balance Gray offers is just right; she gives enough conceptual prompting for readers to understand the basic science involved, but not so much as to lose the thread of the narrative.

In *Reluctant Genius*, Charlotte Gray offers the reader insight into many intriguing events surrounding Bell. To name just a few significant, yet little-known incidents, we learn that Bell burst into a Mohawk dance whenever he felt overjoyed (which he learned from a friend on the Six Nations Reserve); he tried in vain to save the life of U.S. President James Garfield by developing a telephone probe; he had a close friendship with Helen Keller; he was one of the founders of the National Geographic Society; and he was a keen enthusiast for the Montessori teaching method.

Charlotte Gray is a masterful biographer, for she translated prodigious research into a clear and insightful portrait of her subject. Thanks to her gifts as a storyteller, the accounts of Bell, his family, in-laws, friends, associates, and rivals is riveting. Gray has produced a highly readable book that will captivate anyone interested in knowing the many sides of a man with a most inventive mind and in learning about Mabel Hubbard, the woman who laid the foundation for his achievements.

Reviewed by A.J.B. (John) Johnston, a historian with Parks Canada who has a special interest in the history of Cape Breton Island.

Reviews



MISSION IMPROBABLE

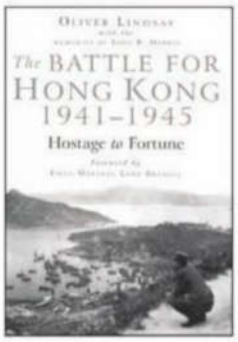
Bloody Falls of the Coppermine: Madness, Murder, and the Collision of Cultures in the Arctic, 1913
by McKay Jenkins
Random House, Toronto, 2005
278 pp., $35.95 hardcover

In the winter of 1913, two Catholic missionaries set out on an implausible journey into the vast wilderness north of the Arctic Circle in an effort to bring Christianity to the Coppermine Inuit. From the onset the mission was ill-conceived and foolhardy. The two priests charged with the assignment had no understanding of the Inuit language, had never spent a day in the Arctic, had no hunting experience, and embarked without cold weather clothing.

Bishop Gabriel Reynant, the man responsible for sending the two missionaries, had written previously of their intended flock, "No one knows how many they are, or what they are like, but we would like to send a few specimens to paradise." Tragically, the only "specimens" to make it to paradise were the priests themselves who, within three days of reaching their destination, sick with malnutrition and suffering from darkness-induced psychosis, were shot, bludgeoned, and ritualistically cannibalized.

Months later, rumours of the murders of Fathers Jean-Baptiste Rouvierre and Guillaume Le Roux reached southern posts. In the spring of 1915, the Royal North-West Mounted Police sent out a young constable, Denny La Nauze, to apprehend the killers. Outfitted for two years' travel, La Nauze headed north. At one point along the journey, it took the constable and his team four days to cover a single mile. Temperatures dropped below –60°C and stayed there for two weeks. Despite these setbacks, La Nauze had little difficulty apprehending his suspects, two Inuit men, Sinnisiak and Uluksuk, who admitted to killing the priests and fully expected La Nauze to kill them on the spot. Instead, they were transported 3,220 kilometres south to Edmonton where they became the first Inuit to face trial in a law court – a trial that attorneys from both sides called "the strangest that has even taken place on the continent."

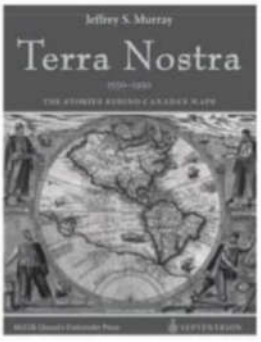
The case of *Rex v. Sinnisiak* took place in an oppressively hot Edmon-



The Battle for Hong Kong, 1941-1945
Hostage to Fortune
Oliver Lindsay

Based on previously unpublished war diaries and new Canadian archival research, an account of espionage, betrayal, and heroism during the British surrender of Hong Kong to the Japanese.

"Lindsay's book is magnificently graphic. It not only plunges the reader into the pill boxes that defended Hong Kong but gives heart-rending descriptions of the suffering in the internment camps." **Oxford Times**



Terra Nostra, 1550-1950
The Stories Behind Canada's Maps
Jeffrey S. Murray

Published in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the official Atlas of Canada.

"Well written and visually splendid, a refreshingly different perspective on the story of our land." **The Globe and Mail**

McGill-Queen's University Press Available at Better Bookstores www.mqup.ca

ton courtroom where the defendants were regularly provided with buckets of ice in which to dip their feet. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty on the grounds the two Inuit men were in fear for their lives and had acted in self-defence – Father Le Roux in particular was known for his wild and violent temper. Judge Horace Harvey, who had pointedly instructed the jury to return a guilty verdict, was so incensed that he ordered another trial to be held in Calgary, where he would again preside as judge. In the second trial he secured his intended verdict, and Sinnisiak and Uluksuk were found guilty by the jury "with the strongest possible recommendation to mercy." Both were sentenced to two years minimum-security imprisonment at Fort Resolution, where they spent their incarceration working as guides for the Mounties.

In telling this remarkable tale, author McKay Jenkins displays a deft sensitivity to the complexities of two cultures interacting for the first time. How were two priests able to explain the Crucifixion to people who had never seen a tree? How, in the most fledgling grasp of Inuktitut, could they describe the Garden of Eden in a landscape without anything even remotely resembling a garden? Even the conception of God posed difficulties; earlier translators among the Inuit had settled on a translation of God as, "Our boat owner who lives in heaven." Jenkins does an admirable job of sketching out the vast polarities between two very different lifestyles and cultures.

As an American academic venturing into the Canadian North, Jenkins fares better than expected. However, his decision to employ the term "Eskimo" (an exonym that is not used by the people it describes) instead of the more acceptable "Inuit" is ill advised and shows a lack of cultural sensitivity. Canadian readers will be startled to learn that the Franklin expedition perished in the Barren Lands, not the Arctic – the book mistakenly uses the terms interchangeably. But the author's most painful and presumptuous misstep is a tacked-on epilogue that portrays contemporary Inuit life as a dismal shadow compared to the exotic, natural existence that non-Inuit authors insist it once was. This is far too simple a pronouncement for a southern academic to make and mars an otherwise careful and legitimate work.

Reviewed by Peter Unwin, a Toronto author. His latest book, *The Wolf's Head: Writing Lake Superior*, was republished in paperback by Dundurn this fall.

MORE BOOKS

Historical Dictionary of the Discovery and Exploration of the Northwest Passage
by Alan Day
Scarecrow Press, Lanham, Maryland, 2005
417 pp., $103.05 hardcover

Sometimes the Northwest Passage seems a wall against which heads continually banged. Its existence suggested early in the Age of Discovery when it was thought to be the way to Cathay, the passage was doggedly sought for four centuries until Roald Amundsen broke through with his successful 1903–1906 voyage. As a target for discovery nothing matched it in prestige and the opportunity to be the first lured a company of adventurers, dreamers, schemers, and opportunists right out of Central Casting. For this thorough (but pocket-sized) omnium-gatherum, Alan Day, a retired English librarian and historian, has written nearly five hundred entries on the numerous voyages and expeditions, captains and patrons, and discoveries and disappointments that comprise one of history's longest tales. For additional context, there's a broad and in-depth chronology, a general introduction, and an extensive bibliography. Kind of a one-stop shop for Northwest Passage fans, though it is a bit pricey.

AN INTERACTIVE DOCUMENTARY ON DVD
From Field to Studio:
The Art of
PAUL KANE

EXPERIENCE HISTORY IN A NEW WAY
Through the documentary and its interactive features, explore the compelling world of Paul Kane, an artist whose travels along the Hudson's Bay Company fur trading route in the mid 1800s brought him face-to-face with First Nations and Métis cultures at a crucial turning point in history.

INCLUDES the award winning TV documentary *Visions from the Wilderness: The Art of Paul Kane*
TO ORDER VISIT
WWW.CINEFOCUS.COM
CineFocus CANADA
1-866-504-9940

Reviews

The Canadian Honours System
by Christopher McCreedy
Dundurn Press, Toronto, 2005
408 pp., $60 hardcover

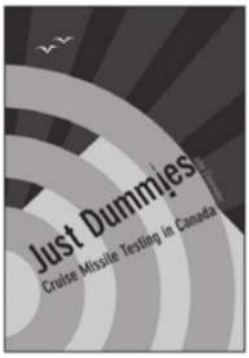
The Order of Canada:
Its Origins, History, and Development
by Christopher McCreedy
University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 2005
371 pp., $65 hardcover

Clearly, with two books on honours under his belt, Christopher McCreedy is no tyro on the subject. Honours, it turns out, has been a somewhat fraught subject in post-Confederation Canadian history. As the country weaned itself off Empire, its politicians have, in some periods, sought to wrest control of honours-giving from London; in other periods, their policy has been to have no policy. That ended in the run-up to the Centennial in 1967 when the Order of Canada was created and Canadians began to give honours to Canadians. Not as big a step as the Statute of Westminster or the 1982 Constitution Act, perhaps, but still an advance in political sovereignty. Complete with a message from the fount of honour herself, HM the Queen, *The Order of Canada*, the first book-length treatment of the subject, thoroughly examines the evolution of Canada's honours system and includes even those who had theirs taken away. *The Canadian Honours System* is more of an illustrated companion guidebook, covering some of the same ground in brief and including provincial, military, and other civilian honours.

Rockcliffe Park: A History of the Village
by Martha Edmond
The Friends of the Village of Rockcliffe Park Foundation, 2005
280 pp., $49.50 hardcover

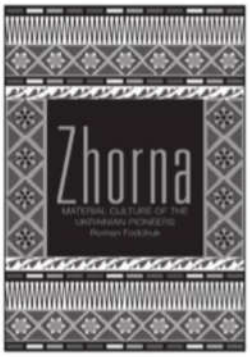
Rockcliffe Park is a suburb, a very charming suburb, with a lake and a pond and many splendid homes, but as a suburb it probably wouldn't warrant much attention if it weren't for the fact that it's a suburb of Ottawa. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Blow have lived there, but so, too, have royalty (Crown Princess Juliana of the Netherlands), prime ministers (John Diefenbaker, Lester Pearson), actors (Hume Cronyn), writers (Elizabeth Smart), and mandarins, journalists, and business people too numerous to mention. As such, the suburb has been a microcosm of the city, and if Ottawa isn't exactly a microcosm of the nation, we all know its reach into our lives. Historian Martha Edmond, a Rockcliffe resident herself, has thoroughly researched the story of these 430 bucolic acres perched on the Ottawa River and found that in the early nineteenth century, it wasn't bucolic at all – it was more of an industrial crossroads. But in the mid-Victorian period, Thomas Coltrin, son-in-law of businessman and legislator Thomas McKay, who built Rideau Hall, saw the potential of the acreage and laid it out as a planned community in a park-like setting. Preserving that setting has been the task ever since. Generously illustrated, *Rockcliffe Park* is a satisfying social history that can be enjoyed by Ottawans and non-Ottawans alike.

NEW FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY PRESS



JUST DUMMIES: CRUISE MISSILE TESTING IN CANADA
by John Clearwater
ISBN 1-55238-211-7
270 pp, softcover
b&w photographs, $34.95

POLICING THE WILD NORTH-WEST
by Zhiqiu Lin
ISBN 1-55238-171-4
210 pp, softcover
b&w photographs, $34.95



ZHORNA: MATERIAL CULTURE OF THE UKRAINIAN PIONEERS
by Roman Fodchuk
ISBN 1-55238-197-8
250 pp, softcover
colour / b&w photographs, $34.95

visit us online at www.uofcpress.com
order from your favorite bookstore, or toll-free at 1-877-864-8477

The Last Imaginary Place:
A Human History of the Arctic World
by Robert McGhee
Key Porter Books / Canadian Museum of Civilization, Toronto, 2004
296 pp., illus., $39.95 hardcover

Robert McGhee considers the Arctic as imagined by people who have never experienced it, finding their collective fantasies wanting. He sweeps aside romantic illusions by countering stereotypes of the Inuit as a timeless culture uniquely adapted to the North. Offering a rich array of stories and perspectives, McGhee explores the culture and history of many Arctic societies, including the Inuit of Canada, Alaska, and Greenland; the Chukchi of Siberia; and the Saami of northern Scandinavia. He describes the concrete realities of life in the Far North with a poetic, evocative sensibility. Summarizing the recent history of Arctic peoples in interaction with expansionist cultures, he shows how Arctic cultures have displayed resilience in the context of change, offering hope in the midst of many challenges.

The Island of Seven Cities:
Where the Chinese Settled When They Discovered North America
by Paul Chiasson
Random House Canada, 2006
384 pp., $34.95 hardcover

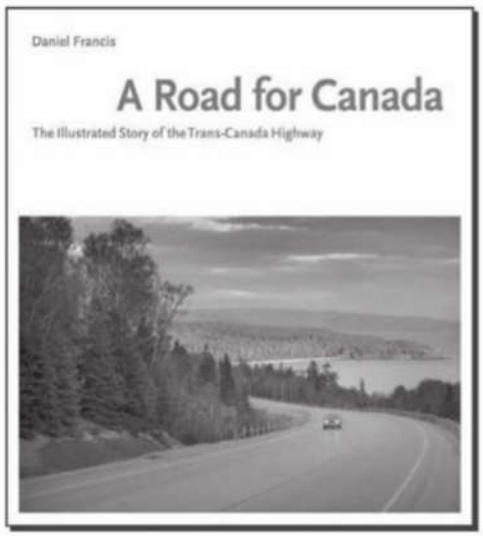
In this audacious tale of discovery, Yale-educated architect Paul Chiasson surmises that it wasn't the English, the French, or the Portuguese who first arrived on the eastern shores of the New World. Instead, it was the Chinese in their technologically superior ships. His evidence begins with the ruins of a road in his native Cape Breton Island, extends to aerial and site photographs, maps and drawings, his own expertise as an architect, and incorporates Micmac myths and customs that he argues reflect Chinese influence. Whether historians will rush to embrace this theory is arguable, but mystery lovers will like it at least for its detective work and its "what if" speculation.

Dental care on a year-round traveling railway coach in Northern Ontario, often on remote railway sidings

WHISTLE STOP DENTIST
ON THE ONTARIO C.P.R. DENTAL CAR 1931 to 1935 by David C. Brownlow

242 pages with photos, maps and illustrations
$29.95 paperback ISBN: 0-9730932-0-X
1-888-571-2665 www.volumesdirect.com

"*A Road for Canada* is a vivid tribute to the great road that connects our country and weaves the fabric of our nation." –RICK HANSEN



A Road for Canada
The Illustrated Story of the Trans-Canada Highway
Daniel Francis

Hardcover, 192 pages, over 200 illustrations.
$39.95

From British Columbia, to Newfoundland, the creation of the Trans-Canada Highway was a supreme act of nation building.

Lavishly illustrated, *A Road for Canada* recounts the tales of the first attempts to cross Canada by car and spins stories of the dreamers and their vision of a national highway.

A Road for Canada will take you on an epic journey traversing the longest highway on earth, through the colourful landscape of contemporary Canada.

SA&D Stanton Atkins & Dosil Publishers

For more information visit:
www.s-a-d-publishers.ca

OTHER SA&D TITLES

I Stand for Canada
The Story of the Maple Leaf Flag
Rick Archbold

Waterfront
The Illustrated Maritime Story of Greater Vancouver
James P. Delgado

Available in all fine bookstores across Canada.
Distributed by Publishers Group Canada.

Christopher Moore

Who was Jimmy Gardiner anyway?

A debate over the characterization of James G. Gardiner in the CBC drama *Prairie Giant* misses the point. Canadians should embrace their icons – whether they are depicted as heroes or villains.

I cannot bring myself to write more about the craven behaviour of the CBC in betraying the Tommy Douglas drama *Prairie Giant* after some viewers complained of its characterization of Douglas's rival, the Liberal politician James G. Gardiner. A content advisory at the beginning of *Prairie Giant* declares it to be a dramatization in which characters have been "condensed, composited, or fictionalized." Anyone unaware that drama is fiction, and that in fiction things are invented, should not have the responsibility of running a television network.

Still, the character called Jimmy Gardiner in *Prairie Giant* was not slavishly faithful to the historical figure – no small giant in his own right. Rather than encourage squabbles about how to control history, I thought it might be more edifying to pursue a different question. If that was hardly Jimmy Gardiner in *Prairie Giant*, then who was he? Has he a story, too?

SASKATCHEWAN ARCHIVES

Saskatchewan premier James G. Gardiner in the Legislative Building, Regina. In response to criticism about its portrayals of Gardiner, the CBC agreed to pull the film *Prairie Giant: The Tommy Douglas Story* from broadcast. The controvery continues, and the film may be altered to exclude Gardiner or come with a disclaimer.

Jimmy Gardiner was a little guy, physically a bit like Tommy Douglas, a teetotaler, and as hard as the times that shaped him. (His brothers were World War I casualties, his son died at Dieppe, and he buried two wives – one committed suicide.) Like so many of the West's early leaders, Gardiner, born in 1883, was an Ontario farm boy, and he first went west as a labourer on a harvest excursion. He stayed, settled, and entered the Saskatchewan legislature in 1914. By 1926 he was premier.

In 1935, Gardiner moved on to Ottawa, where he spent more than twenty years as federal minister of agriculture. Louis St. Laurent beat him in the Liberal leadership race of 1948, and after the Diefenbaker sweep of 1958, he retired to his farm in Lemberg. His monuments include the Gardiner Dam on the South Saskatchewan River.

Recently, I asked several students of western and national politics whether there were elements in the Gardiner career that still give a not-quite prime ministerial politician a claim upon our attention.

David E. Smith, co-author of a biography of Gardiner, reminded me that when Jimmy was in power, Saskatchewan had the country's third-largest population. Ottawa listened when Gardiner spoke for Saskatchewan and for farmers. In recent years, such influence has been enjoyed by few westerners, indeed by few cabinet ministers. "For any political scientist, this is quite a story about Canadian political life," Smith says. "It's a story of an unremitting fight for western Canada and for farmers, and about the tools a minister could use for those causes that a minister maybe no longer has."

Saskatchewan historian Bill Waiser told me how Gardiner, early in his career, joined a debate that prefigured one going on today: Can Canada accept foreign immigrants without "losing its identity"? In the 1920s, the foreigners were Central Europeans and Catholics, not South Asians and Muslims. According to Waiser, Gardiner experienced Saskatchewan's

multicultural mix in his rural school-teaching days: "Certainly he saw political potential in those votes, but he was also committed to the diverse population base Saskatchewan was developing." When nativist, anti-foreigner prejudice surged in Saskatchewan politics in 1929, Premier Gardiner suffered one of his few political defeats. According to Regina historian Bill Brennan, "The Liberal party tradition has been that Jimmy Gardiner's Liberals did the right thing in 1929, and paid the price."

Mackenzie King biographer Blair Neatby once interviewed Gardiner at his Lemberg farm. "He was very down to earth and unpretentious, a genuine farmer." Neatby recalls a politician unintimidated by bureaucrats. Neatby's uncle was a civil servant and deputy minister of agriculture and when Gardiner did not like his advice, he would simply say, "Remember, Ken, I'm the minister." That attitude shaped Gardiner's reservations about the Canadian Wheat Board, which he saw as bureaucratic and beyond the control of farmers; he preferred farmer-run co-ops.

For Saskatchewan historian and legal scholar Beth Bilson, that attitude influenced Gardiner's hostility toward Tommy Douglas's Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (CCF). "One of the big issues behind the CCF in Saskatchewan was its advocacy for technocracy, for competence, for the specialization of public administration. That set up a tension with popular democracy." Gardiner, convinced that elected politicians must be in the driver's seat, fought a long rear-guard action against non-partisan expertise.

One enduring characterization of Gardiner is that of a "machine politician," for he ran the Liberal organization in western Canada when it was fearsomely successful. Says biographer David E. Smith: "If we define machine politics as a patronage-based civil service where civil servants were expected to do their bit to support the re-election of their political masters, he was not much different from many others of his time. It was a fairly normal part of politics."

Gardiner himself rejected the term "machine" – a political party was nothing without organization, he said – but he was a ferociously partisan Liberal. "One of the arguments that Jimmy used against third parties," says Smith, "was, 'What do they think they can do for the West when they are sitting on the left side of the speaker?' I think it is a question that has not definitely been answered yet by western third parties."

Above all, Jimmy Gardiner was a fighter. In his world, politics was a hard-knuckle, no-concession, no-surrender business. That is where *Prairie Giant* caught something essential about the man. If you could tell Jimmy Gardiner there was a movie that portrayed him as someone who always fought tooth-and-nail for his party and the causes he believed in, well, he might have accepted that. A movie hero needs an antagonist, and the film rolled everything Tommy Douglas feared and fought against into one single character labelled "Jimmy Gardiner."

"Jimmy Gardiner dominated Saskatchewan for half a century," reflects Bill Brennan. "What the *Prairie Giant* controversy showed was how many people had never heard of him." For a last word, here's what Tommy Douglas said of Jimmy Gardiner in 1958: "He's not a loveable figure. He's a tough, hard-bitten politician [but] he has tremendous courage … I never saw him run away from a fight of any kind … He's not a snob. When he was a Minister of the Crown [he] met with the ordinary people and lunched with the private members and was democratic, friendly, and approachable."

Christopher Moore comments in every issue of *The Beaver*.

Et Cetera

Jimmy Gardiner: Relentless Liberal by Norman Ward and David E. Smith was published by University of Toronto Press in 1990. *The Politician*, a novel Jimmy Gardiner wrote in his youth, was published in 1975 by Western Producer Prairie Books.

Editorial Writers: "the people who come down from the hills after the battle to shoot the wounded." - Murray Kempton, New York Post

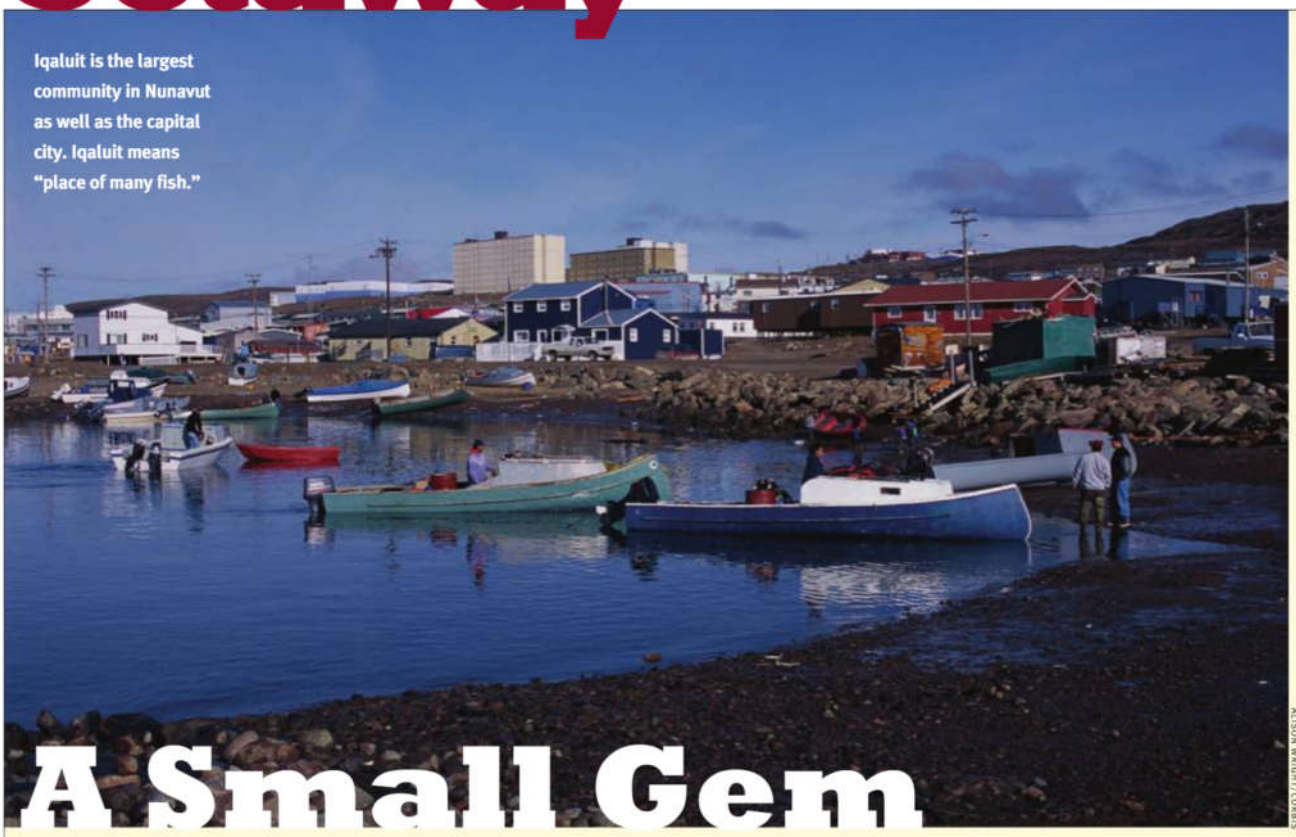
In Our Opinion
Selected and Edited by Don Sellar
6 x 9, 236 pages, indexed
ISBN: 1-55041-987-0 hardcover
$28.95 CDN

Whether railing against taxes and the horrors of war or pondering the future of lacrosse in 1895, editorials have been the voices and personalities of our newspapers, coast to coast.

The editorials in this engaging collection offer a tour of the passion, anger, and occasionally the downright silly opinions that have found their way onto Canadian editorial pages over the last 115 years.

Editorials: "A newspaper article written by, on behalf of, or under the direct responsibility of an editor, esp. one giving an opinion on a topical issue."

Fitzhenry & Whiteside
40 years of family-owned Canadian publishing
www.fitzhenry.ca



Iqaluit is the largest community in Nunavut as well as the capital city. Iqaluit means "place of many fish."

ALISON WRIGHT/CORBIS

A Small Gem

Iqaluit may seem like an outpost on the remote Arctic tundra to most Canadians, but as Bruce Sach discovers, it's a bustling capital city with deep roots.

Iqaluit, once known as Frobisher Bay, is Canada's smallest capital city (in terms of population) and also the only capital that is inaccessible via a highway. Getting there is not always easy: in principle, it is possible to reach Iqaluit on foot, by dogsled, or snowmobile from other parts of Baffin Island or the Quebec mainland when the Hudson Strait freezes. The Inuit traditionally travelled this way, but this mode of travel is not, of course, recommended for the novice. Although most travellers visit Iqaluit as part of an extended tour of Baffin Island, the capital of Canada's newest territory deserves to be singled out.

Iqaluit – population five thousand – was chosen over Rankin Inlet as Nunavut's capital in a territory-wide referendum in 1995. Though small, it offers some unusual finds if you know where to look. Snowmobiles are the preferred form of transport, but a walking tour of Iqaluit is also a good way to start. A tour might begin from the town's tourist hub, the Discovery Lodge Hotel, in the western part of town, located on the corner of Allanngua and Niuriavik Roads. Make your way along the roads that hug the Frobisher Bay shoreline and observe the sea lift where large ships, caught in low tide, are unloaded by smaller craft. In the middle of summer, a few small ships transport bulk and heavy goods directly. Iqaluit does not have a deep-water harbour, so goods must be barged ashore.

Along Sinaa Road, you will come across the Nunatta Sunakkutaangit Museum, conveniently situated beside the Visitor Information Centre. The museum, housed in the old Hudson's Bay Company trading post, features items representing Inuit life. Along with artwork, traditional household items have been preserved, including clothing made of whalebone, sealskin, and caribou skin, as well as sealskin masks that were once used in shamanistic ceremonies.

From the Nunatta Sunakkutaangit Museum, head north toward the remains of St. Jude's Anglican Cathedral, which is at the end of Mattaaq Road. Once one of the most distinctive buildings in Iqaluit, the pristine-white church was noted for its igloo shape. This landmark and tourist attraction also held a spiritual role in the lives of the Iqalummiut. Known for its

NUNAVUT TOURISM

The Hudson's Bay Company opened a trading post at Ward Inlet in 1914, then moved closer to Iqaluit in 1943 to better serve the Inuit living in the area.

KEVIN FRAYER/CP ARCHIVES

The Nunavut Legislative Assembly features a mixture of traditional Inuit art and modern design.

Inuit craftsmanship, the cathedral contained artistic wall hangings, a cross fashioned out of narwhal tusks, and a carved soapstone baptismal font, which was dedicated by Queen Elizabeth II. For now, visitors can only observe what remains of this stunningly beautiful igloo-shaped church. Unfortunately, a fire claimed the building, but plans are underway for the construction of a new cathedral.

Next, walk west along Federal Road to reach the town's government buildings. Note that due to climate and building constraints, much of Iqaluit's architecture is strictly functional. Still, the Nunavut Legislative Assembly is remarkable for its colourful interior. It boasts stunning art, including carvings, paintings, and tapestries. For instance, a diamond-tipped sceptre carved from a seven-foot-long narwhal tusk is a unique treasure.

In 1576, when English explorer Martin Frobisher sailed into what we know today as Frobisher Bay, he believed that he had discovered a route to China. But he likely never set foot on the site of Iqaluit. After Frobisher's first voyage, he abandoned plans of finding the Northwest Passage, making two more voyages to the area with a different objective: on his second voyage, he found what he thought was gold and overloaded his ship with 1,500 tons of it to bring back to England. To his dismay, he was informed that his haul was, in fact, worthless iron pyrite. Frobisher must have been bitten by the gold bug, as he repeated the same mistake on his third voyage.

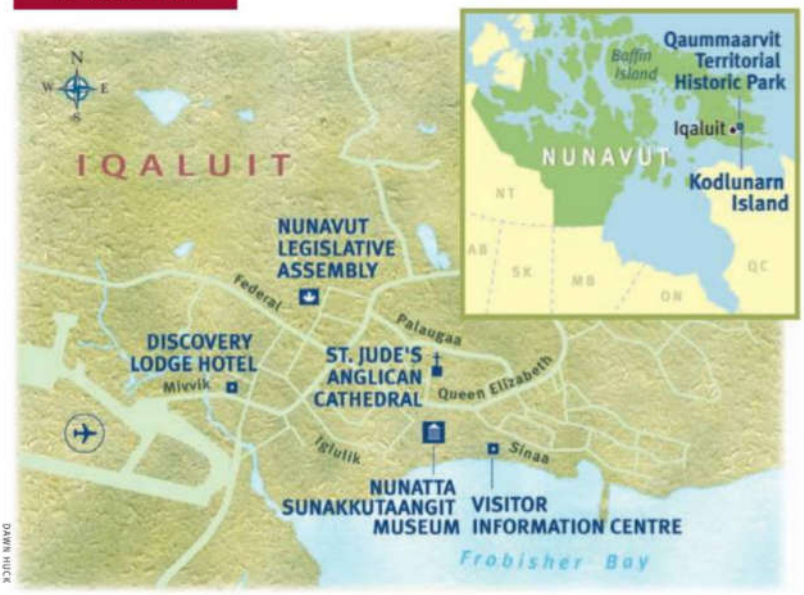
Martin Frobisher's mining activities can still be see today on Kodlunarn Island, located about 500 metres off the northeastern shore of Frobisher Bay in Warwick's Sound. The best way to reach the island is by boat. Known today as Frobisher Site, the tiny island served as a mining centre with a smelting plant that produced ore, which was shipped back to England. It operated between 1576 and 1578. The foundations of the settlement and depressions in the rock where the miners dug are still visible more than four-hundred years later. Though deemed worthless, some of the ore was eventually used to construct a wall in Kent, England. It still stands today.

More easily visited is the Qaummaarviit Territorial Historic Park, twelve kilometres west of Iqaluit. This park, located near Peterhead Inlet, is accessible by a twenty-minute boat ride. The small island provides a view to the past, with many artifacts dating back to the Thule who inhabited the area. Find remnants of middens and eleven half-buried sod houses made from whalebone, sod, and stone. Ancient tent rings are proof the area was used for summer tenting.

Archaeological findings show that Pre-Dorset, Dorset, and Thule peoples have lived in the vicinity of Baffin Island for more than four-thousand years. Regardless of the length of your visit, you will yearn to return.

Bruce Sach is an Ontario writer.

If you go ...



DAWN HUCK

Iqaluit is generally only accessible by aircraft and, depending on ice conditions, sometimes by boat. Iqaluit Airport is a fully modern facility, and most visitors take direct flights to Iqaluit from either Montreal or Ottawa. The small town has a local road system, stretching from the nearby community of Apex to a kilometre west beyond town. Keep in mind that there are no roads between communities within the region. For general travel, all communities are fly-in only. The town of Iqaluit currently has no public transportation, however taxi service is available.

Nunatta Sunakkutaangit Museum
P.O. Box 1900
Iqaluit, NU XOA OHO
T: (867) 979-5537
E: museum@nunanet.com

Nunavut Tourism
For more information on travelling to the communities and attractions of Nunavut, or to contact a tour operator:
T: (866) 686-2888
W: NunavutTourism.com

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
P.O. Box 1200
Iqaluit, NU XOA OHO
T: (867) 975-5000
E: leginfo@assembly.nu.ca

Your Story

Secret Agent Dad

Under a high level of secrecy, Ronald Alison undertook a crucial mission in World War II. More than fifty years later, his son, Robert, discloses his findings.

In World War II, Canadian operatives were engaged in special, covert activities overseas. Nobody knows how many spies there were, because identities were closely guarded, and never officially acknowledged. Owing to the sensitive nature of special operations they were "undocumented, underdocumented, obliquely referenced, or the records were destroyed," explains reference archivist Ilene McKenna of the National Archives of Canada. The records of the operatives themselves met that same fate.

My father, Ronald Alison, was one of those operatives. Before he passed away on June 10, 2005, he talked to his family about his involvement in the Allied war effort and produced a written account of his experiences. His official records vanished mysteriously. But his written account and verbal statements are compelling testimony of his work overseas during World War II.

In 1941, the British Special Operations Executive (SOE) came under the authority of the U.K. Foreign Office (the mission of the SOE was to facilitate espionage and sabotage behind enemy lines and to resist a possible Axis invasion). Canada's special operatives fell under its jurisdiction. When the British Ministry of Economic Warfare ceased to exist in May 1945, its records were distributed among other government agencies. According to the British High Commission, my father's records disappeared. Consequently, he (along with other Canadian special operatives) never received any official recognition for his war contributions.

Ronald Gardner Alison was born in 1912. He graduated from the University of Toronto around 1936 and began to work as a professional engineer for the Lincoln Electric Company. His specialty was arc-welding. On April 23, 1943, he was ordered by the Canadian Privy Council to report to Canadian Military Headquarters in London. He travelled to London by troopship and was met there by a major in the Canadian Forces, who informed him of the extremely secret nature of his assignment. (British Intelligence emphasized the secrecy of the mission and a senior BI official paid my father a private visit years later to discuss what he had done overseas.) At a meeting with the chief of the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, he was told he would be given information "not available to our troops or to our officers."

Ronald Gardner Alison in 1942.

The main thrust of Ronald's mission was to investigate why such a large amount of Allied equipment was breaking down and malfunctioning in the field. The Canadian divisions in the U.K. were the primary focus of his probe.

While offered the rank of major, he declined, insisting that it would be more inconspicuous and efficient to work outside the lines of military command. Certain that his findings would affect the timing of the European invasions, top-ranking military officials gave him special authority to make unrestricted inquiries.

A year earlier, in 1942, Ronald attended a government-sponsored engineering conference in Kingston, Ontario. He reviewed data indicating that equipment-assembly techniques used by the Canadian military were seriously flawed. Equipment kept falling apart. Later, his investigation of Canadian equipment in the U.K. indicated the "critical need for better welding methods." In those days, military equipment was transported in pieces overseas and subsequently assembled in the U.K. Solid welds were vital to proper assemblages, and faulty welding could be disastrous in actual conflict situations, he informed senior military staff. When hitches began to fall off troop carriers and cannon trailers, the gravity of the situation became acutely clear.

Travelling under the authority of a special U.K. passport (on which his occupation was innocuously listed as "government official") and special CMHQ passes, Ronald conducted extensive investigations throughout England and Scotland. One of his main activities was to train Canadian engineers to arc-weld "everything from the sights on gun barrels to recoil equipment."

It was all kept very quiet, because, as my father told me, "if the enemy were to learn the state of some of our equipment, the results could have proven to be very serious indeed." He was closely guarded and escorted everywhere he went by a driver and an appointed regimental sergeant major.

Inferior welding equipment and techniques were apparent everywhere Ronald went. "The German welders were

much better trained," he stated in his hand-written account. "I had to set up a training program to improve our performance, to make our equipment hold up better in the field of operations, and even the divisional commanding officers had to attend."

CMHQ later admitted that if the issue of faulty equipment hadn't been addressed, the Allied war effort would have been jeopardized. My father's efforts were crucial to success. To acknowledge his efforts, some of the servicemen gave Ronald a ring molded from the engine crankcase of a German *Messerschmitt* that had been shot down in action. He wore that ring until he died.

Officially, my father played no part in the war. There are no records attesting to his involvement, none at the Department of National Defence, Veterans Affairs, or the Directorate of History and Heritage. The public records office of the SOE in Kew, England, keeps the files of surviving Canadian special operatives. There are no traces of my father's records there, either.

However, there is corroborating evidence. Our family still possesses his special U.K. passport (number 30223); a memorandum from the National Selective Service Mobilization Section, signed by Mobilization Board Deputy Chairman W.A. Martin; a memo on letterhead of the High Commission for Canada, Canada House, London, naming Ronald "an official of the Department of National Defence of Canada," and signed by the official secretary; as well as copies of the relevant orders-in-council.

My father often lamented that the Canadian government never officially recognized him for his wartime activities to "show his kids." He stated as much in an interview with a newspaper reporter in August 2004. However, the high level of secrecy surrounding his work made such recognition impossible, largely due to lack of formal documentation. Anonymity was the price that all special operatives paid.

Robert Alison is a professional biologist who lives in Victoria.

Coming in *The Beaver* December 06 • January 07

Sensational Maud Allan
Canadian-born pioneer of modern dance scandalizes Edwardian London.
BY CAROL BISHOP-GWYN

Viking Farewell
The Norse experiment in North America ends in tragedy.
BY BIRGITTA WALLACE

The Canadian Reindeer Project
To feed the Inuit in the late 1940s, a herd of three-thousand reindeer and their guide take a long journey.
BY STEPHEN R. BOWN

Outstanding Arctic Adventures

from $3,795 plus air, taxes incl.

UPCOMING 2007 ADVENTURES

Igloolik, Nunavut :	Jan. 9 – 15
Florence, Italy:	Apr. 12 -19
Sea of Cortez:	April 27 – May 5
Scotland and the Isles:	May 6 - 17
Greenland and Labrador:	Sept 9 - 21
Newfoundland Circumnavigation:	Sept 21 – 30

Join our distinguished resource team including Stuart McLean, host of CBC's *Vinyl Cafe*, Margaret Atwood, Graeme Gibson and Ken McGoogan plus 24 other outstanding team members aboard the 104-passenger, zodiac-equipped expeditionary vessel, the *M/S Explorer*, as we push North next summer.

Three Sailings: August 6 – September 9, 2007, aboard the M/S Explorer
Scotland • Greenland • Baja • Newfoundland • Arctic Canada • New Zealand
www.adventurecanada.com 1- 800-363-7566

Think

In Support of October Breast Cancer Awareness Month

www.hbc.com/thinkpink

Purchase either of these exclusive Hbc items and a contribution will be made to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. In addition you can donate your Hbc Rewards points from every purchase to the Think Pink™ campaign! For a listing of Think Pink™ products visit our website at www.hbc.com/thinkpink.

Hbc Signature Think Pink™ blanket: Exclusively designed and only 800 available in selected Bay stores.
$35.00 from each blanket sold will be contributed to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.
Hbc Signature Think Pink™ toque: 100% of the net proceeds will be contributed to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.
$9.99 each. Available at all Hbc stores.

In support of / Pour soutenir la
CANADIAN BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION
FONDATION CANADIENNE DU CANCER DU SEIN

Donate your Hbc Rewards points to Breast Cancer Research

Hbc

TM Registered trademark of Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation used under licence.

Canada's National History Society
publisher of **The Beaver** *Canada's History Magazine* and
Kayak *Canada's History Magazine for Kids*

Deborah Morrison, President and CEO
Gale Whiteside, Manager, Circulation and Member Services
Danielle Chartier, Senior Member Services Representative
Pat Hanney, Member Services Representative
Nicole MacPherson, Assistant Member Services Representative

Catherine Burns, Director, Finance & Development
Patricia Gerow, Accountant
Linda Onofreychuk, Executive Assistant

Founded in 1994 to popularize Canadian history, the work of Canada's National History Society includes **The Beaver, Kayak: Canada's History Magazine for Kids,** the **Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History** to honour the country's best history teachers, and the **Pierre Berton Award** to recognize those who have brought history to a wider audience.

Board of Directors:
***René Durocher**, Chair, Montréal
***James Baillie**, Toronto
J. Douglas Barrington, Toronto
***Margaret Conrad**, Fredericton
***Charlotte Gray**, Ottawa
Eric Jackman, Toronto
Robert Johnston, Montréal/Charleston, S.C.
Gillian Manning, Toronto
Don Newman, Ottawa
Doug Owram, Edmonton
H. Sanford Riley, Winnipeg
Mark Starowicz, Toronto
***Brian Young**, Montréal
Jerry Zucker, Charleston, S.C.
**Publications Committee*

Advisory Council:
Charlie Baillie, Toronto
Elsa Franklin, Toronto
The Rt. Hon. Roméo Leblanc, Memracook, NB
Peter C. Newman, Vancouver
Richard W. Pound, Montréal
The Hon. Duff Roblin, Winnipeg
Thomas H.B. Symons, Peterborough
Jane Urquhart, Stratford

Rolph Huband, Publisher Emeritus
Joseph E. Martin, President Emeritus

The Beaver was founded in 1920 by the Hudson's Bay Company, whose commitment to the History Society and its programs continues today through the ***Hudson's Bay Company History Foundation***.

Canadian history's guiding lights

Canadian history teachers with passion, creativity, and spirit propel students toward a deep understanding and appreciation of their nation's roots. This past August, a national panel of judges chose six award recipients for the prestigious 2006 Governor General's Award for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History. In total, seven teachers will be recognized by Her Excellency, the Governor General of Canada, the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, at a September 28 ceremony at Rideau Hall.

As you'll read, all of these teachers demonstrate a real concern for ensuring that the lessons they teach transport their students beyond the borders of the classroom walls, creating a lasting impression that will endure well beyond the bell that signals the end of their final exams.

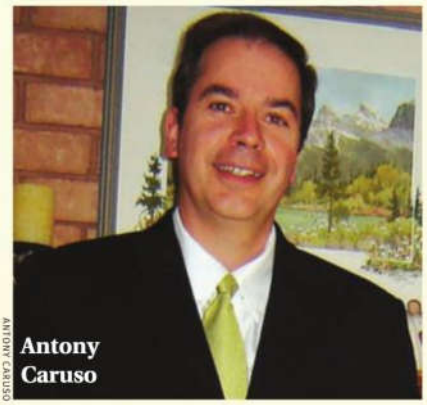
While visiting Ottawa, the teachers will also be honoured in the House of Commons with a special gala evening at the Gatineau Preservation Facility of the National Library and Archives that includes a rare glimpse into the art vault storing many of our national treasures. Through their partnership, Library and Archives Canada and Government House ensure this is truly a memorable event for our recipients.

This year's awards program also marks the beginning of a new partnership with the TD Bank Financial Group, which has generously provided financial support toward program development as well as the cash awards for recipients and their schools. "TD believes that one of the best ways to make a difference in the future of our communities is through the education of our children," says Scott Mullin, Vice President, Government and Community Relations. "With these awards, we are proud to recognize those who are making a difference and ensuring a strong foundation for lifelong learning."

BRETT GILMOUR

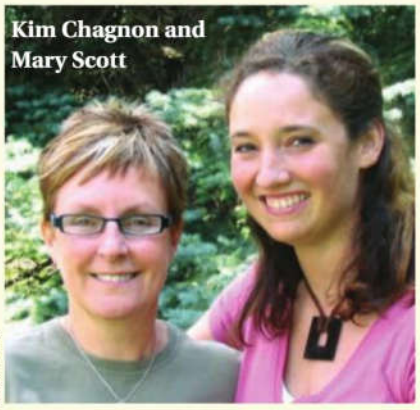
The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean speaking with students at the Millarville Public School in Alberta, where she visited two of last year's award-winning teachers.

Recognizing excellence among those actively involved in promoting greater popular interest in our history is a critical part of the History Society's mission. Through their annual donations, members of the History Society provide us with a strong endorsement of the value of this program and encourage corporate supporters, like TD Financial Group, to join in this effort. On behalf of the seven teachers presented here, and the more than two hundred others who have been recognized through the program to date, thank you for providing us with the means to celebrate these everyday heroes and their epic efforts for Canadian history.


Antony Caruso

ANTONY CARUSO

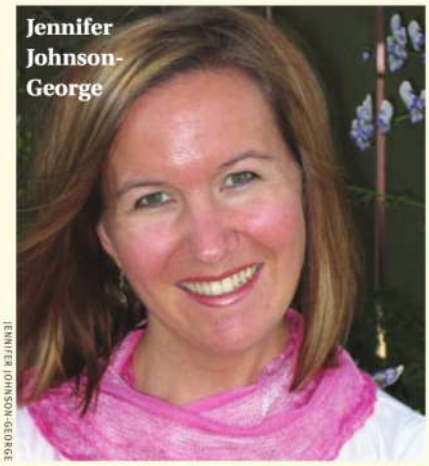
Antony Caruso (Holy Spirit Elementary School, Aurora, Ontario) Antony Caruso's approach to Canadian history fuses critical thinking with a healthy dose of drama. His "Red River Spy Mission" assignment challenges students to critically engage in a controversial issue in Canadian history by acting as spies for Sir John A. Macdonald's government and to report on Louis Riel's Métis government. It is evident from his students' work that Mr. Caruso inspires and motivates his students to go beyond the conventional, getting them involved and invested in their own learning.


Kim Chagnon and Mary Scott

KIM CHAGNON

Kim Chagnon and Mary Scott (St. Gabriel School, Regina, Saskatchewan) "We've Come a Long Way, Baby!" is a social studies unit that reveals to the students how, like a quilt, a community is composed of many small parts, all of which are valuable on their own, and that when sewn together the pieces create something beautiful. For instance, in learning about the RCMP, community-influenced components include field trips and discussions with local officials and community members.

Following field trips, students embark on a variety of "missions" to further investigate and draw comparisons between the past and present, and imagine the future. These missions allow students to create representations of what they have learned. Student projects have included constructing a fictional town called "Gabrielville," conducting a scavenger hunt, writing thank-you letters, sewing a representational quilt, composing articles for the class newspaper, and developing a historical "Wall of Fame." Students also produced a "Regina Jeopardy" game, which allowed many members of the community to participate in the celebration of learning.


Jennifer Johnson-George

JENNIFER JOHNSON-GEORGE

Jennifer Johnson-George (Prince of Wales Elementary, Calgary, Alberta) Jennifer Johnson-George's Grade 1/2 class is immersed in uncovering the stories of Alberta's history. Students took eleven field studies to museums and the historical Stampede Park to learn how the arrival of the train forever changed Canada's West. From the rich oral histories of the Treaty Seven Nations to the building and eventual demise of the wooden grain elevator, "The Elevator Kids" recognize how stories are integral to Canada's character and how they have contributed to the origin and evolution of their community.

Students created two websites with Galileo Educational Network, one of which won the International Society for Technology in Education SigTel (ISTE) first place Online Learning Award. Whether roasting bannock on an open fire, drumming and dancing with native elders, setting up a tipi, songwriting with country singer Tim Hus, or sharing their work in a live video conference with the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, this inquiry took Jennifer's young students from a space of *notions* into a new space of *knowing* about history.

Julie-Catherine Mercadier

JULIE-CATHERINE MERCADIER

Julie-Catherine Mercadier (École Primaire Terre-des-Jeunes, LaSalle, Quebec) Julie-Catherine Mercadier wants to ensure that her students, as well as newcomers to the community, understand the history behind the names of streets and landmarks that surround them. She has created a comprehensive unit on the history of New France, giving her students an interdisciplinary approach to learning.

From the creation of a large-scale model of the Louisbourg Fortress, and a timeline bursting with historically significant characters, to learning contemporary and traditional songs relating the exploits of ancestors to the creation of a detailed show covering 1608 to 1759, all projects are treated with attention to historical legacy. All awaken a curiosity for the past in her students.

Greg Miyanaga (Pinetree Way Elementary, Coquitlam, British Columbia) To teach Grade 4/5 students about the history of Japanese-Canadians during WWII, Greg Miyanaga developed a special unit (co-created with

GREG MIYANAGA

Greg Miyanaga

Patricia Tanaka and Masako Fukawa). A collection of "hands-on, minds-on, and hearts-on" lessons about Japanese internment and redress prompt discussions involving such topics as racism, bullying, human rights, justice, and atonement. Students learn how Canada addressed this issue with the adoption of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the formal apology to Japanese Canadians in 1988. All lessons are designed to develop critical thinking skills by personally engaging students. Activities include interactive games, photograph analysis, making models of internment quarters, reflective journal writing, and role-playing.

BLAKE SEWARD

Blake Seward

Blake Seward (Smiths Falls DCI, Smiths Falls, Ontario) Blake Seward developed an award-winning unit called "Lest We Forget." It began as a student exploration of primary military service files, based on the names found on the community cenotaph. This unit has grown and been adopted by schools across Canada. "Lest We Forget" is composed of five steps, each of which guides students through the research process. Students acquire a name from the community cenotaph and conduct research using information from the National Archives, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and the Department of Veterans Affairs. They develop an essay – along with research skills – based on the soldier's contribution during the war. Once completed, reports are published by Veteran's Affairs Canada on their Virtual Memorial website, as well as in the local newspaper. The exploration culminates with a pilgrimage to the European battlefields where students finish their research by making a grave rubbing of the soldier's tombstone.

A 10-part series beginning SEPTEMBER 28th on CTV Travel
Exhibit eh!
EXPOSING CANADA, ONE MYSTERY AT A TIME.
travel
BIG RED BARN
ENTERTAINMENT
A cross country investigation into the B-sides of Canadian history.
www.brbmg.com

HISTORY MATTERS
Build the Canadian History Legacy for the Next Generation
Please contact Catherine Burns at
(204) 988-9300 extension 16
Canada's National History Society
Publisher of The Beaver: Canada's History Magazine
and Kayak: Canada's History Magazine for Kids
478-167 Lombard Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0T6
Email: donations@historysociety.ca
Web: www.historysociety.ca
CANADA'S HISTORY SOCIETY

Album

George Aquilina, who submitted this photograph, lives in Collingwood, Ontario. He is the son of Vincent Aquilina.

Therapy

Like many young men at the time of the 1914–1918 war, Vincent Aquilina was caught up in the passion of a great cause. Or at least we can presume he was. He was born in 1900, which meant he was well underage for military service when Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated in Sarajevo. He was still underage when he tried – and failed – to enlist in Toronto. Finally, in London, Ontario, someone turned a blind eye and Vincent, known as "Joe," joined the cavalry. In France, he was wounded and had his left leg amputated above the knee. He was not yet eighteen. In which battle, in what year, under what circumstances, his family is unsure because, like many veterans, Joe talks little about his war experience. At a hospital in Whitby, he undergoes what we would today call occupational therapy. (He's the man in the white shirt in the centre.) Whether the classes help him along life's path is moot. Though handy with tools, he works in the paper trade in Toronto for a living. He marries and raises four children. But in 1918, at the end of the war to end all wars, all those good things are still to come.

Do you have an old photograph that captures a moment, important or ordinary, in Canada's history? If you would like to submit it for possible publication, have it copied (please don't send priceless originals) and mail it to Album, c/o *The Beaver*, 478–167 Lombard Ave., Winnipeg, MB, R3B 0T6. Or email your submission to album@thebeaver.ca. Include a brief description of the photo, including its date and location. If possible, identify people in the photograph and provide further information about the event or situation illustrated. To have your posted submission returned, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

"The best drama on television."

Rolling Stone

DEADWOOD

This history ain't taught in school

HISTORY™
TELEVISION

Mondays at 9PM ET/PT

ALLIANCE ATLANTIS

HistoryTelevision.ca

An RBC advisor helped Mary Carvalho maximize her income. Because inflation and the taxman didn't retire when she did.

Retired? You'll recognize Mary's challenge: maintaining her lifestyle living on the money she's saved and invested. She worked with an RBC® financial advisor at her branch to refine her retirement plan: her investments are structured to maximize her income (so she worries less about inflation), and her finances are arranged for tax-efficiency. Doing the same for you is how RBC can put you first.

› 1-866-245-9464 › visit a branch

RBC

FIRST › FOR YOU®

® Registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. Used under license. © Royal Bank of Canada 2006.

RBC financial advisors are employees of Royal Mutual Funds Inc. Investment advice and financial planning services are provided by Royal Mutual Funds Inc. Royal Mutual Funds Inc. is licensed as a financial services firm in the province of Quebec.